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Latin students take
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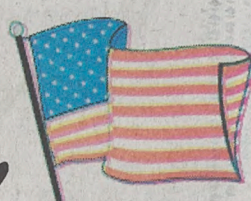
Sports

Female Athlete of the Year:
Alexcia Luna S1

Wilmington Town



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32 PAGES

Screening Committee, successful candidate profile further specified

By LIZZIE MCDERMOTT
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — After much debate and discussion, the School Committee has decided to include extra parents and an extra principal on the Superintendent screening committee.

The discussion began with a recap on focus group and survey response. According to Dr. Art Bettencourt from the New England School Development Committee, 100 people attended focus groups, and 313 responded to the survey online. Further individuals were individually approached for feedback.

"It really is an excellent turnout," said Bettencourt. "It shows the interest that people have."

The committee then shifted to discuss the composition of the Screening Committee, a group of local stakeholders who will meet in executive session to narrow the list of candidates to the three to five names who will be presented to the School Committee.

Four out of the six PACs in town presented a parent name to the committee. While the original plan had been to vote upon two names, the committee, after much discussion on the benefits and disadvantages of increasing the size of the Screening Committee, ultimately voted to include all four parents with a 5-1 vote. In that vote, one extra principal was also added.

A second vote unanimously approved School Committee members Peggy Kane and Jennifer Bryson as representatives to the Screening Committee.

According to Dr. Bettencourt, the search is still on schedule, with a new superintendent expected to be voted upon in early spring.

"Hopefully, if all goes well, you'll be prepared to make your decision by late February, early March," Bettencourt told the committee.

Finally, the School Committee proceeded to approval of the Successful Candidate Profile as presented by NESDEC, based upon focus group and survey responses. Chairman Stephen Bjork expressed a desire to see "compassion" added as a key characteristic in the candidate, citing the compassion of late former Superintendent Joanne Benton.

"(Compassion) was a vital important aspect to her leadership," Bjork said.

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Town votes to re-zone detox centers

By LIZZIE MCDERMOTT
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON - Selectman Michael McCoy's efforts to amend local zoning bylaws as they relate to health care centers cleared its biggest hurdle yet this past Saturday at a Special Town Meeting.

As the zoning bylaw stood, medical facilities, including detox centers, could be placed in any residential or residential mixed zone in town. They could not be placed in industrial zones. The premise of Article 2 of the Special Town Meeting warrant was that, according to McCoy, "All we're going to do is flip it."

McCoy presented this restructuring as a measure which would both move detox facilities away from dense residential areas, and allow for larger, more expansive medical facilities to be built in industrial zones.

DETOX | PAGE 7

► Wilmington Town Selectman Michael McCoy speaking to a full house at the the Special Town Meeting Saturday morning. (Photo: BruceHilliard.com)



Holiday performance at Shawsheen School

▲ First graders at the Shawsheen School singing and acting out the "Twelve Days of Christmas"

Third graders at the Shawsheen School — Sudheer, Danielle and Kalea — greeted guests and passed out programs as the first grade kids took to the stage to sing holiday songs. (photos: BruceHilliard.com)



'The Secret Lives of Teens' workshop

By LIZZY HILL
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — On Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. in the high school auditorium, Wilmington Public Schools and Office of Student Support Services is bringing a workshop to help parents understand what their teenagers are thinking. Mental health counselor and trainer

Jon Mattleman will be leading the 80-minute session.

Mattleman has worked as a therapist for 35 years, running health centers and building a consulting firm for fostering healthy relationships. He grew up in Philadelphia and moved to Massachusetts to start college at Clark

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Town election calendar

By CASSIA BURNS
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — The Wilmington election calendar has recently been released for 2018. With the new election year, many positions will be open for new candidates within the town government.

Among the available positions are one selectman seat, two school committee seats, and the moderator position. There are also spaces available within the

housing authority. However, since the Department of Housing is still working to determine the amount of members within the authority, the number available is currently uncertain.

Currently, the people holding the available seats are Michael Champoux in the selectman seat, Mary Jane Byrnes and Manny Mulas in the School Committee seats, and Robert Peterson Jr. as

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Two-day Empowering Girls Conference: Women with Vision hosted by DA Ryan

LEXINGTON — Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan hosted more than 450 students from 30 middle and high schools across Middlesex County at this year's Empowering Girls 2017 Conference: Women with Vision held at the Cary Memorial Building in Lexington. This year's theme focused on leadership, self-discovery and goal-setting in the face of obstacles.

"As a part of this year's conference we focused on working with the students to express their vision for their future," said District Attorney Ryan. "Individual visions are what makes the world different, and although not every dream these students have will turn into reality, this conference helps them to learn that it is how they deal with the obstacles in their way that will make a difference in their future."

The Sixth Annual Empowering Girls Conference built upon past conference themes designed to encourage confidence-building, self-assertion and goal-setting through compelling speakers and interactive presentations.

Speakers during both sessions inspired students by encouraging them to be persistent when pursuing their goals and to never let stereotypes define who they are. Each day the students created vision boards to represent the path they see for their future and engaged in interactive group discussion

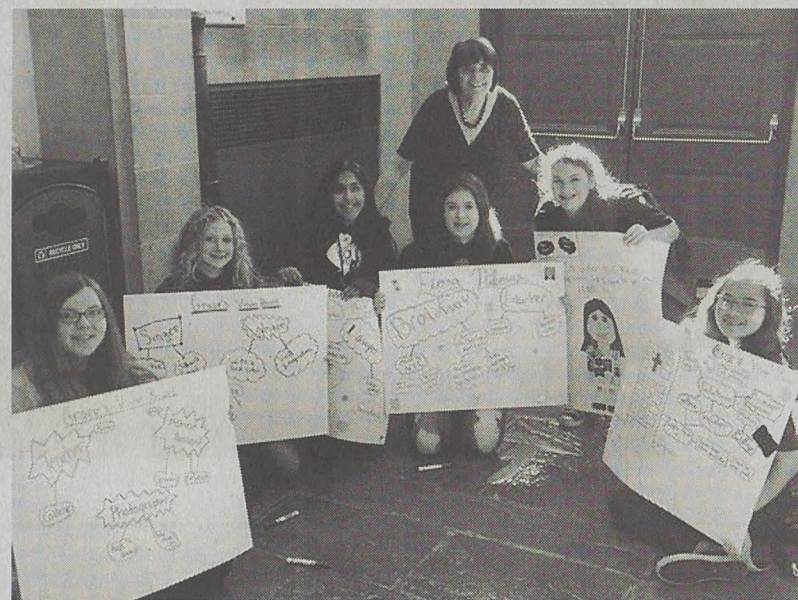
about what obstacles may face on their journey and how to address them.

Day one speakers were: Donna K. Hazard, Interim President and CEO, New England Aquarium, Co-Founder, Women Working for Oceans, Carmen M. Ortiz, Esq., Counsel, Anderson Kreiger, LLP, Boston, Former United States Attorney, District of Massachusetts and Karen Anderson, Anchor and Reporter, 5 Investigates, WCVB Boston

Day two speakers were: Natasha Tidwell, Esq., Counsel, Hogan Lovells, LLP, Boston, Queenette Santos, Director of Programming, Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester and Karen Anderson, Anchor and Reporter, 5 Investigates, WCVB Boston.



▲ ▼ Students from across Middlesex County attended, including from Ferryway School in Malden, Hawthorne Brook Middle School in Townsend, Jackson School in Newton, John Glenn Middle School in Bedford, John F. Kennedy Middle School in Waltham, George Keverian Middle School in Everett, Lexington Middle School, John W. McDevitt Middle School in Waltham, Ottoson Middle School in Arlington, Joseph G. Pyne Arts Magnet School in Lowell, Justus C. Richardson Middle School in Dracut, Robinson Middle School in Lowell, Saint Mary's Parish School in Melrose, Saint Raphael's Parish School in Medford, Stoneham Middle School, Stony Brook School of Westford, The Webster School of Everett, Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School in Marlborough, Dracut High School, Everett High School, Groton-Dunstable Regional High School, Greater Lowell Technical High School in Tyngsborough, Holliston High School, Joseph P. Keefe Technical High School in Framingham, Lexington High School, Lowell High School, Marlborough High School, Melrose High School, Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational High School, Wakefield, Waltham High School, Wilmington High School. (Courtesy photos)



DPW offers snow and ice tips for winter

TREATMENT OF ROADWAYS

The Wilmington DPW is responsible for plowing and treating over 115 miles of roads using both DPW employees and private contractors.

The plowing priorities are:

1. Major roadways and public safety facilities
2. Secondary and side streets
3. School parking lots

Plows will clean, treat, and widen roadways until reasonably safe conditions are met. Please keep in mind that snow removal equipment is still hard at work well after the snow has stopped falling.

SIDEWALKS

Town crews will plow sidewalks along central routes that are heavily traveled by children on their way to and from school. These sidewalks are not plowed until all road clearing operations are completed.

Business owners are responsible by Town Bylaw to keep the sidewalks adjoining the premises clear of snow and ice.

TRASH/RECYCLE COLLECTION

Ensuring that trash and recycle barrels are properly placed for roadside collection before, during, and after storm events is the responsibility of the resident.

Many residents opt to shovel out a separate area for their trash barrels, to ensure they stay close to the roadway but outside of the path of traffic.

Residential trash and recycling collection will only be postponed during the most severe storm events. When it is deemed necessary to postpone trash and recycling collection, the town will utilize our automated call system and will also post the notice to the Town website.

OBJECTS IN THE ROADWAY

The town is not responsible for damage to items placed within the Right of Way. These items include, but are not limited to: basketball hoops, bicycles, fences or walls. Please remove these

items from the Right of Way during the winter months to protect your personal property.

DRIVEWAYS

Although the DPW makes every effort to minimize the amount of snow that gets plowed into driveways, as we plow to the edges of the roadway, snow will fill in driveway openings.

You may wish to clear your driveway several times during the storm or wait until the storm and plowing activities have ended.

Shoveling, plowing or blowing snow back into the street when clearing driveways and sidewalks is prohibited by town ordinance. Violators will be fined by the Wilmington Police Department.

FIRE HYDRANTS & CATCH BASINS

The DPW needs your help to remove snow from hydrants and catch basins after a snow storm. Because all DPW crews assist with snow and ice operations, they may be unable to remove snow from hydrants and catch basins for several days to a week after a storm. Your assistance will help keep your neighborhood safe in the

event of an emergency.

WINTER PARKING BAN

Wilmington enforces an overnight parking ban that is in effect between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. from Dec. 1 to April 1 each year, regardless of weather conditions. Also, there is no on-street parking during snow plow operations. If it snows after April 1, the parking ban goes back into effect.

Failure to comply with the regulation will result in the owner receiving a ticket from the Wilmington Police Department and/or the removal of the vehicle at the owner's expense from the roadway during a snow emergency. If a vehicle is impaired and cannot be removed until morning, the owner must alert the Police Department for assistance.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Plow Complaints 978-658-4481
Police/Fire Emergency 911
Non-Emerg. Police 978-658-5071
Non-Emerg. Fire 978-658-3346
Reading Light 781-944-1340 (downed wires/trees in wires)

MAILBOXES

The DPW will repair or replace mailboxes if the box is damaged as a result of direct

contact with the snowplow. Repairs or replacements will not be made if the damage is a result of snow being discharged from the snowplow. Please report the damage to DPW at 978-658-4481 as soon as possible.

Mailboxes damaged by direct contact with the snowplow will be replaced with standard steel mailboxes and standard 4" x 4" pressure treated posts, if needed. Custom built mailboxes and posts are placed in the town Right of Way at the owner's own risk.

The DPW will not replace plastic mailboxes. Plastic mailboxes in cold weather are very brittle and are not suitable in cold weather climates.

The DPW will not repair mailboxes that are in poor existing condition or have posts that have rotted.

If the front of the box is not 6" - 12" back from the curb or extends past the curb line, DPW will not repair or replace.

It is the responsibility of the property owner to clear snow around mailboxes to ensure mail delivery by the US Postal Service.

Please go to www.wilmingtonma.gov/publicworks for Snow & Ice Policies and Frequently Asked Questions.

Advertisement
It's Your Money
by Todd Brisbois



HOW OFFER IN COMPROMISE WORKS

Taxpayers who have a tax debt they cannot pay may have heard that they can settle their tax debt for less than the full amount owed. It's called an Offer in Compromise. Before applying for an Offer in Compromise, here are some things to know:

In general, the IRS cannot accept a settlement offer if the taxpayer can afford to pay what they owe. Taxpayers should first explore other payment options. A payment plan is one possibility. Visit IRS.gov for information on Payment Plans - Installment Agreements.

A taxpayer must file all required tax returns first before the IRS can consider a settlement offer. When applying for a settlement offer, taxpayers may need to make an initial payment. The IRS will apply submitted payments to reduce taxes owed.

The IRS has an Offer in Compromise Pre-Qualifier tool on IRS.gov. Taxpayers can find out if they meet the basic qualifying requirements. The tool also provides an estimate of an acceptable offer amount. The IRS makes a final decision on whether to accept the offer based on the submitted application.

Taxpayers wishing to file for an Offer in Compromise should visit IRS website's Offer in Compromise page for more information. There taxpayers can find step-by-step instructions as well as the required forms. Taxpayers can download forms anytime at www.irs.gov/forms or call 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676) and ask for Form 656-B, Offer in Compromise booklet.

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By **SHAUN NEVILLE**
WCTV Executive Director

A few months ago, we asked our volunteers and the community: What sort of programs would you like to see more of on WCTV? Here's what we heard:

Local real estate trends: This would be fun and could feature local realtors or other people who know the market.

Local youth sports events and games: Great idea. We know this is popular content in the community.

A show featuring vets and military families: Another idea that we think would be a popular program.

A wrap-up show with timely topics and clips of meetings: Other communities are starting to do programming like this, and I think there's a lot of potential here!

Local places residents can go for a night out/Phantom Gourmet-style restaurant show: We'd love to have pro-

WCTV news and notes

gramming that showcases businesses like this and gives people a feel for what they're like.

Other ideas included: Music shows, puppet shows, cooking shows, features on small businesses and a "where are they now?" program that features young adults who grew up in Wilmington.

So what do we do with this list? Well, we're already working to generate ideas on how we can turn some of these into reality. But remember, this is COMMUNITY media. And any one of you has the ability to say "Hey, that's a good idea. I think I could chip in on a program like that."

Whether it's hosting a show in studio or recording interviews and video in the field, residents are encouraged to participate at WCTV. We'll provide the training

and technical assistance. You just need to bring your ideas and passion to the table. Got a show idea? See something above that might be of interest? Contact our Community Relations Coordinator Lisa Kapala to learn more about free membership (lkapala@wctv.org / 978-657-4066).

New Programs: These air on one of WCTV's 3 television stations (Public: Comcast 9/Verizon 37 - Government: Comcast 22/Verizon 38 - Education: Comcast 99/Verizon 39). You can also watch them at WCTV.org.

WHS Boys Basketball (WCTV Education): The winter sports season kicked off with a big win against Norfolk Aggie.

Special Town Meeting (WCTV Government): Last Saturday's meeting went a couple of hours and included changes to the zoning by-

laws and a discussion on marijuana.

Winter Concert Series (WCTV Education): All five winter concerts that were held at the high school are now available online and can be seen on TV.

Lowell Mill Girls Presentation (WCTV Public): See this presentation at the Wilmington Memorial Library earlier this month.

The Festival of Trees (WCTV Public): Volunteer Jim Buckley put together highlights from the annual Christmas festival.

Check out WCTV.org for more information on when programs will be televised and how you can get involved at your community television station. Membership is free and there's no time commitment.

Produce a show, help in studio or cover a community event that you care about! We're here to make the process as simple as possible.

History:

The old 'grocery stores' of Wilmington

By CAPT. LARZ
NEILSON

Town Crier, Nov. 21, 1957

When we were a very young man, we used to spend our time wandering all over town talking with people. We learned greatly from this exercise, perhaps we had a greater accumulation of useless figures and facts than any other youngster in town.

One of the facts that we learned was that there were an even dozen grocery stores in Wilmington during the Civil War, a fact that always puzzled us mightily.

As of 1957, with a population of 10,000, Wilmington had 15 grocery stores, including Stevens' Supermarket, which serves hundreds of families each day. What could a dozen grocery stores do in a town of about 700 people? Did they live in the same manner as Bret Harte's famous Chinese, who earned their living by taking in each other's washing?

Many a maiden lady, 30 or 40 years ago told us, perhaps with her hand in back of her neck to prop up a head which had begun to shake with old age that "her grandfather ran a grocery store in this house during the Civil War." It was something to make a young fellow wonder.

Lately we've been reading about the early prohibition experiments in Massachusetts and we have begun to see the light.

It was back in 1851 that the State of Maine voted to go dry, and in the next year, four states, one of them Massachusetts, followed the example of Maine.

For 10 years, there was no liquor sold in this Commonwealth, at least not officially. But in those same 10 years, the number of grocery stores in Massachusetts increased by leaps and bounds.

Wilmington, in 1851, had two grocery stores, that of Walter Blanchard, on Middlesex Avenue opposite Federal Street, and the Jaques store, in what is now Wil-

lington Square.

As we said, there were a dozen during the Civil War — some of which we now know existed only for the purpose of selling bottled goods. We can name four such places, one of them being in North Wilmington, up where McDonald Road is today. It was later known as the Phelps place. There was a second place on Andover Street and a third one on Mill Road, down in the Garden of Eden, in a house that was later owned by the Miller family.

The fourth place was run by the redoubtable Billy Eames. Probably there were more, but they have been lost in the mists of time. At least, we cannot prove that they sold other than groceries.

Another grocery store must be mentioned, that of Samuel B. Nichols, at Nichols Corner. Mr. Nichols also wound the town clock, took care of the town pound, and the town scale and other things, all of which paid small salaries. He was later a town clerk and selectman.

We don't know if Mr. Nichols sold surreptitious liquor, but we do know that he sold liquor later on, as the agent for the town, at the munificent salary of \$2.085 per month.

Then in 1862, the legislature appointed a commission to investigate the liquor situation. Heading the commission was the famous John A. Andrew, wartime governor of Massachusetts.

The commission reported that it was neither sinful nor harm in every case to use alcohol, and it stated that "it is the right of every citizen to determine for himself what he will eat and drink."

But that didn't clear up the situation. There were still a few years to elapse before the bootlegging joints were to disappear in Massachusetts.

Here in Wilmington, the selectmen were Lemuel Cobb Eames, George Gowing and Henry Sheldon.

Lem Eames was some sort of relative of Billy Eames, in



▲ The Billy Eames house, at the corner of Middlesex Avenue and Clark Street, was the center of an "under-the-counter" liquor trade 150 years ago.

(Photo taken about 1905 by Ed Nelson Eames)

that both were descended from Daniel Eames. Daniel Eames was just as tough as they make them. He made a fortune in Penobscot County real estate, and earned for himself the name of "Royal Rascal." His descendants, to this day, are just as hard-minded individuals, not afraid of any man.

Lem Cobb Eames lived in the house that Daniel had bought. Later to be a state representative, he was now (1862) the chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

His kinsman, Billy Eames lived at the corner of Middlesex Avenue and Clark Street, only in those days, Clark Street was known as Jaquith Lane, and it didn't go as far as Church Street.

Billy ran a grocery store which was like some of the restaurants during the noble experiment of the 1920s, Prohibition. Maybe he had a few pounds of sugar and some peas on hand, but Billy's main stock was kept

in bottles, and those bottles were under the counter.

Billy was just as tough as the rest of the Eames family, and he didn't care who knew what he was doing. Perhaps the constable was one of his patrons — we don't know — but the constable never bothered Billy.

This was a real source of annoyance to the selectmen. Lem Eames had his eye on a seat in the legislature, and he couldn't be said to be allowing lawlessness in Wilmington.

Henry Sheldon, later Deacon Henry Sheldon, was a very good friend of the Congregational minister, the Rev. Mr. Tolman. He was a man of lofty aspirations who did much to better Wilmington schools. He couldn't be accused of abetting lawlessness.

Then finally there was George Gowing. George's wife was a cousin of the constable. He, too, felt strongly about Billy Eames, but nei-

ther he nor his wife could seem to persuade the constable to do any thing.

Anyway, the legislature finally acted, and the selectmen of Wilmington decided that the way to get rid of the grocery stores was to under-sell them, with good liquor.

Samuel Nichols was appointed the town liquor agent, and he set up shop in his store, where today there is a funeral parlor.

In his first report in 1863, he reported that he had made a 50 percent profit. Costs had been \$151.43, and the profit to the town was \$86.04.

Still the "grocery stores" continued in operation, and Billy Eames sneered at the efforts of the selectmen. The selectmen decided that they should cut prices.

Next year, the town liquor store took a loss. It wasn't much. The town had been required to take out a state license to sell liquor, and that cost \$24.17. Billy Eames and his friends didn't bother with a license, and at the end of the year, it cost the taxpayers about \$3 or \$4 for the dubious pleasure of running a liquor store.

But things were taken in hand about this time. Levi Swain was elected a constable,

to replace the former office holder, and Levi couldn't be described as a friend of Billy Eames.

Times began to become a little tougher for Billy and his fellow "grocers," but still they continued in business.

For five or six years, the constable of Wilmington, aided and abetted by the selectmen, tried to put the "grocery stores" out of business, but it wasn't until the legislature voted new laws that this could be done. When the legislature voted that licenses could be granted to private stores, juries began to convict liquor store owners who were operating without a license. Overnight, the "grocery stores" disappeared, all over the Commonwealth.

That was in 1868. For the past few years, Mr. Nichols had been making a slight profit, perhaps \$20 or \$30 a year, which went into the town treasury.

In 1868, Mr. Nichols turned over his last liquor profits, \$24.02, to the town treasurer. He also turned in \$10 worth of unsold liquor and \$4.47 in fixtures to the selectmen.

We never heard what became of that last supply of liquor, or the fixtures either.

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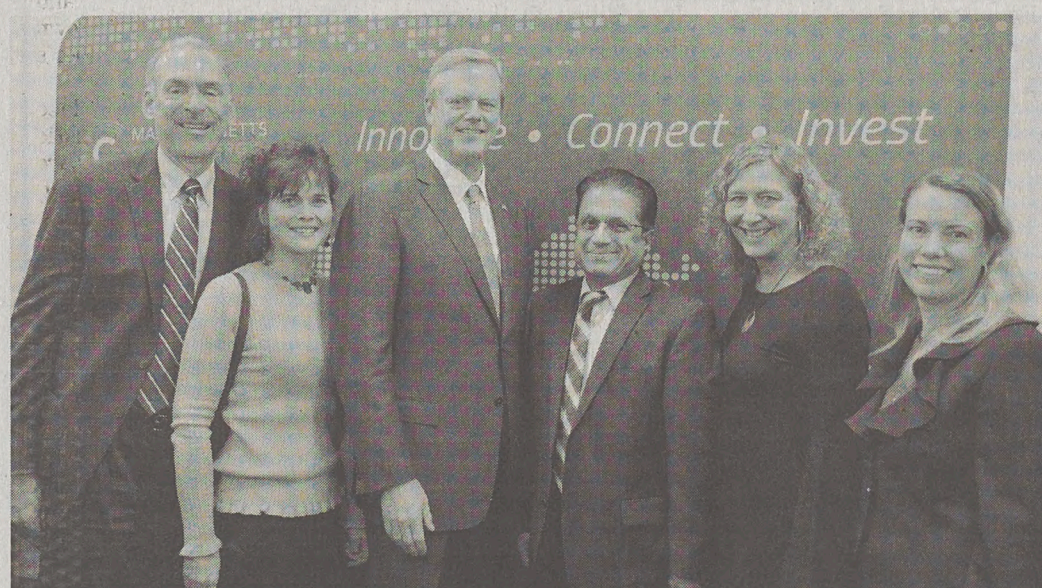
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▲ Picture taken at awards ceremony held on Dec. 7, 2017 at UMass Memorial - Marlborough Hospital. From Left to Right: Tom Ollila, RMLD; Coleen O'Brien, RMLD; Governor Charlie Baker; Hamid Haffari, RMLD; Jane Parenteau, RMLD; Commissioner Judith Judson, DOER (Courtesy photo)

RMLD awarded \$1M grant for energy storage project

READING — Reading Municipal Light Department (RMLD) was recently awarded a \$1 million grant for the installation of an energy storage unit at its North Reading substation to support "shredding the peak." The grant is part of the Baker-Polito Administration's Energy Storage Initiative (ESI) Advancing Commonwealth Energy Storage (ACES) program, funded by the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and administered by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC).

The grants were announced by Governor Baker during an event at UMass Memorial - Marlborough Hospital on Dec. 7, 2017.

RMLD's project consists of installing a 5-megawatt Lithium Ion Battery unit at its North Reading substation to reduce peak demand, thereby lowering future transmis-

sion and capacity costs related to the purchase of wholesale electricity. Transmission and capacity costs are determined by the total system load during critical peak times when the electrical grid is most stressed.

The battery unit will be co-located with RMLD's new 2.5-megawatt Distributed Generator, which was also installed to help "shred the peak."

"The RMLD is honored to have received this award providing us the opportunity to add this type of renewable energy technology to the peak demand portion of our power supply portfolio," said Coleen O'Brien, General Manager. "We'd like to thank the Baker-Polito Administration for offering this innovative program and for selecting RMLD for this outstanding award. We'd also like to thank Senator Bruce Tarr, Representative Bradley Jones,

Representative James Dwyer, Senator Thomas McGee, and Senator Jason Lewis for supporting RMLD's grant application."

The Baker-Polito Administration launched the Energy Storage Initiative in May 2015 with the goal of advancing the energy storage segment of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Industry. Energy storage technologies are expected to positively impact the energy market in a number of ways such as: reducing costs for consumers by storing energy during off peak hours when costs are low and using the stored energy during peak periods when costs are at their highest; providing resiliency and reliability to the electric grid; and expanding the use of intermittent renewables such as solar by storing energy generated during the day for use at night.

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Letters to the editor

Residents winning fight against detox center

Dear editor,

I would like to thank the 366 people who came out to the Special Town Meeting this past Saturday and supported Article 2 and it was extra special because it took place during the busiest shopping season of the year. That was nothing short of a Christmas miracle! With you doing that, you've sent a loud and clear message town wide that we want to protect and take back our neighborhoods.

The biggest shout out I'd like to give is to the group called "Concerned Citizens of Wilmington." This group truly cares for not only their own neighborhood but also the neighborhoods throughout the entire town. They went to the Special Town Meeting knowing full well that they still need to fight the good fight against the drug detox center proposed to be located at 362 Middlesex Ave. property owned by Mr. Kneeland.

For them, that fight continues on at the Board of Appeals meeting for the special permit. For the rest of you, because of their hard work in protecting your neighborhood, you now need to help them. They need you to help them every step of the way. When it comes time for the Board of Appeals meeting, you need to be there. Why? Over 85 percent of the Special Town Meeting attendees voted against drug detox centers being located in neighborhoods; they let it be

known that this was not OK.

Just like the the group of Wilmington's Families First that fought against Global and won at the Board of Appeals — the simple fact is that the pressure from the huge group of residents helped defeat Global from opening. We need to do this for the residents of North Wilmington against Mr. Kneeland's big money and political machine.

I encourage you to call Wilmington Town Hall at 978-658-3311 and ask for the members of the Board of Appeals phone numbers and/or emails and tell them you're opposed to the opening of the drug detox center proposed to be located at 362 Middlesex Ave. This shouldn't be a problem. I've instructed Town Hall for over 30 years to always give out my home phone number to anyone requesting it. That's what we're there for — to serve the residents. The members of the Board of Appeals should be no different.

I have not seen a movement like this between the Wilmington Families First and the Concerned Citizens of Wilmington in my 30 year political career as a public official. You know what this says to me? You're mad as hell and you're not going to take it anymore and you want your town back. I'm with you.

Michael V. McCoy
Wilmington Selectman



Latin students take on the MFA

By MATT FRONDUTO

On Thursday, Dec. 12, 40+ TMHS Latin students ventured into the streets of Boston to visit the one and only Museum of Fine Arts (MFA). This field trip was orchestrated by the Junior Classical League (JCL), a club full of passionate and wildly driven latin students.

For those who are unfamiliar, JCL focuses primarily on the most interesting aspects of ancient Roman, Greek, and Egyptian culture, as it is geared towards students who not only have a deep seated interest in the language of latin, but also the culture and history surrounding it.

The leader of JCL, junior Rosalyn Impink, transcends the boundaries of what a club leader should be, and this was exemplified by her masterful orchestration of the recent

trip to the MFA. It must be noted that organizing a class trip which manages to stay entertaining while also keeping students engaged by teaching them new information is no easy task.

Luckily, with the help of the school's JCL advisor and lone Latin teacher, Paul Early, Impink delivered one of the school's most successful field trips of 2017.

The group of students and chaperones (Early and TMHS history teacher Marc Demers) were able to not only given the opportunity to study the MFA's basic collection of Roman and Egyptian artifacts, but also had access to the MFA's exclusive collection of Ancient Greek cultural antiquities. These exhibits contained a wide variety of fascinating historical time capsules, including pieces of curren-



cy, authentic weapons, and perhaps most impressive, original busts of once very powerful people, many of which have miraculously remained in tact.

Some of these prominent figures include Emperor Domitian, Aristotle, and even the Greek god Dionysus.

In addition to the extensive displays of ancient European culture, the MFA contains several pieces of classic American artistry, including portraits by the famous John Singleton Copley. Considering that over a

quarter of students on the field trip are enrolled in Dustine Puma's AP US History class at TMHS, this only adds yet another interesting dynamic to the already impressive trip.

Given that last week's trip to the MFA was such a success, one would hope that this will draw more attention to not just the Junior Classical League, but TMHS's Latin classes as a whole, as it is an interesting language with a rich history, and contrary to what some may say, it is far from dead.

Female veteran services and adrift cargo ship

By PAUL J. ANDREWS
andrews@masssupt.org
Mass. Ass'n. of School Superintendents
Chairman of the Board of
Winchester Hospital

As we covered in the last column, you will see some interesting issues that have crossed my mind in the past few weeks that I will share. First, as a follow-up from the last column on "white lights" and the issue of racism connected to the use of these, I had many e-mails and comments in my travels, which really run like, "that is ridiculous to think that way, the world has gone crazy to have gone that far, what is happening to people in their thinking and many saying this is nuts." I find it so real to see what brings the reactions from readers but agree

with their perceptions.

If they had known.com

A Winchester story that was a heart-breaker made the news this past week when the parents of Clayton Soper were impacted by the taking of two medication Xanax and alcohol with tragic results and emphasized that if they had known the dangers of the mixture of these medications and this could have saved the life of their son and in fact many others for that matter.

This brave family who suffered this loss came public this week to really help other families and young people, who do not understand the problems from combining drugs as Xanax with alcohol which can slow breathing and possibly lead to death as a warning in most medical

definitions. The family bravely went through the effects this had on their son and other lives since Clayton's episode in 2015.

The clear point being made by the family was the little amount of information out there on the effects of "combining drugs" which needs to be made much clearer for all to understand and hope their story will help others. The link of (*If they had known.com*) was announced as a way to assist all on the concern of drug combinations.

Female veterans services

Because I know a Channel 5 Producer and enjoy the program, I try to watch Chronicle and especially Kathy's stories and was stunned to hear this week's segment, that Kathy produced that discussed the absolute lack of sufficient female veteran services. While in my mind many local folks in our senior population were in the military during war time and certainly continue today in various branches of the armed services, the comparative lack of services for the female population of veterans is beyond belief.

A great lady who I always admired was Woburn's Kay Cantillon (Jean and Ed's mom), who would talk often about what they (as nurses

in the military) did during war time to serve their country. So while I knew from Kay's stories some of the issues, the Chronicle story was shocking.

In essence, I cannot understand why the same services are not available for women as for men at the current time and going back to the beginning of our war time history and in fact incredible to believe. This story was huge in revealing the lack of female veterans services and hopefully the beginning of making appropriate corrections.

How does a cargo ship get to Nahant area?

I keep waiting for a follow-up story on the cargo ship that was tied up on the docks in Boston Harbor and ended up in the waters off Nahant two weeks ago. I keep looking for a follow-up story but have seen none. This fully-loaded cargo ship was reportedly tied up with five lines to the dock in Boston and pulled away from the dock, out across the harbor lanes towards Nahant.

Have you ever seen the size of the lines that connect these ships to the strong dock posts on a commercial pier? Granted the winds were an issue but how did this happen with no action taken by staff near or on the

liner. Where was the captain or the person in charge at the dock to not get assistance until this huge boat was afloat. Can someone explain how five lines can become disconnected from the pier?

I am sure there are answers to this story and

would like to read them but the lack of discussion and responses seems to keep you wondering who was minding the store (sorry, ship).

JUST A NOTE: Thanks for your comments and taking the time to read this column and feel free to e-mail me at andrews@masssupt.org

Want your opinion heard?

We LOVE your letters!
Send Letters to the Editor to:
office@yourtowncrier.com.

All submissions must be accompanied by full name, address, and daytime contact information for verification purposes.
Letters must be e-mailed by noon on Monday in order for consideration the same week's edition.



◀ Tewksbury Rotary Club Members wrapping Hart House children gifts.

▼ Ellen Wright of Wright Law Group

(Courtesy photos)

Tewksbury rotary gives back at holiday time

TEWKSBURY — The Tewksbury Rotary Club this holiday season has been involved in several activities that have benefited those who are with out.

Members of the Tewksbury Rotary Club volunteered to ring the bell for the Salvation Army at the Market Basket in Tewksbury. Funds collected went directly to the Salvation Army and will go to projects to help families at holiday time and other yearlong programs.

In addition, Tewksbury Rotary members wrapped gifts purchased by the club for children who are located at

the Tewksbury Hospital Hart House. The club hosts a Christmas party for the children with Santa who arrives on a Tewksbury Fire Department truck. Santa gives the children the gifts wrapped by the members.

Lastly, the Tewksbury Rotary Club has given year-end donations to Community Team Work, Tewksbury Food Pantry, and for Tewksbury Public School students in need.

Interested in becoming a member of the Tewksbury Rotary Club, please email John Lyons at tewksbury-president44@gmail.com.



Three arrested on counterfeit charges

WILMINGTON — Shortly after 11 p.m. last night, while patrolling Interstate 93 northbound in Wilmington, Massachusetts State Police Trooper Stephen Thomson observed a black Acura TLX sedan with flashing blue lights and a New York plate being driven at an extremely high rate of speed.

The Acura was changing between the middle and left lane at speeds estimated to be greater than 110 mph, and other vehicles, believing it to be a police vehicle, were moving out of the way.

Trooper Thompson queried the vehicle, and upon determining it was in fact not a police vehicle, activated his marked cruiser's blue lights and siren and attempted to conduct a motor vehicle stop as the Acura got onto Interstate 495 southbound.

The Acura kept traveling in the middle lane and refused to stop. Troop A headquarters authorized a pursuit and assumed command and control. Troopers pursued the Acura approximately 10 miles until it stopped at Exit 34 in Chelmsford.

Trooper Thomson, assisted by Troopers Kenneth Quigley, Francis Ducharme, and Emily Todisco, removed the three male occupants from the Acura and secured them in handcuffs. The occupants were identified as Kevin Portalatin, 27, of the Bronx, N.Y., who was the driver; Samuel E. Morales, 38, also of the Bronx; and Yefri Arias-Rodriguez, 22, also of the Bronx.

The driver Portalatin told Trooper Thomson that he was a volunteer police officer and firefighter and he thought the pursuing

Troopers were "helping" him. The driver also stated the group was coming from Lawrence, despite the fact that they were observed traveling in a northerly direction in Wilmington, which is south of Lawrence. The driver then stated that the men were rappers from New York and were going to do a show.

Troopers observed that the Acura had flashing blue lights in the front and back. During an inventory of the Acura prior to its



(Courtesy photo)

being towed, Troopers discovered a box containing \$100 bills believed to be counterfeit. The bills were stacked in 10 separate bundles each bound with a paper band. A single \$20 bill, also believed to be

phony and with Chinese writing on it, was also found. Troopers also located, in the car, three bottles of pepper spray and a handheld radio that scans police dispatches.

Troopers transported the three men to the State Police-Andover Barracks, where they were booked. A special agent from the United States Secret Service responded to the barracks, interviewed the men, and confirmed that the bills were counterfeit.

Portalatin is charged with the following offenses:

- Impersonating a police officer;
- Unlawful use of blue lights;
- Possession of counterfeit notes;
- Failure to stop for police;
- Speeding; and
- Marked lanes violation.

Morales and Arias each face charges of possession of counterfeit notes.

Herb Chambers

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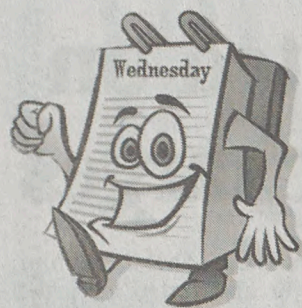
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Community Calendar

send your item to:

Calendar@YourTownCrier.com

Wilmington Calendar:

Open House at Abundant Life Christian School

Sons of Italy Christmas Party Musical Extravaganza
Friday, December 29
Wilmington/Tewksbury Elks, 777 South Street in Tewksbury
Cocktails at 6:00 and a catered sit-down meal of surf and turf with all the trimmings catered by Mr. Jack's served at 7:00 p.m. Dinner will be followed by a Musical Christmas Show at 8:30 featuring Bova Productions. There will also be an optional \$10 scratch ticket swap during intermission. Cost is \$50 per person. For tickets contact Michele Caira Nortonen at 978.604.6437 or John Romano at jromano45@gmail.com.

Kiwanis Puerto Rico Collection
Saturday, January 13 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
West Real Estate, 386 Main Street (next to Bank of America)
The Kiwanis Club of Wilmington will continue their drive to help the people of Puerto Rico. On the top of the list is food, beans and rice. Water and clothing are still in demand. New to the list are pots and pans to cook the food. Some areas of Puerto Rico are getting restored, but the mountain

people still are in the dark. For more information, call 978-430-1652.

Open House at Abundant Life Christian School and Learning Center
Tuesday, January 23, 2018 (snow date Tuesday, January 30, 2018)
Abundant Life Christian School and Learning Center is hosting a community Open House on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 (snow date Tuesday, January 30, 2018) from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. All families in Wilmington and surrounding communities are invited to come see the high quality education and experiences being provided to students at Abundant Life, visit the classrooms, and meet the exceptional teachers and staff. Abundant Life Christian School and Learning Center is centrally located at 173 Church Street, across the Wilmington Town Common. Abundant Life looks forward to seeing you at Open House, and sharing how Abundant Life is "Growing Kids God's Way!" For more information, call 978-657-8710 or visit ablifescchool.com.

Annual Comedy Night
Friday, February 2, 2018
Tewksbury-Wilmington Elks, 777 South Street in

Tewksbury
The Wilmington Sons of Italy and Wilmington Band Parents announce their Annual Comedy Night, featuring Headliner Orlando Baxter, Justin McKinney and Chris D. Doors open at 8:00 p.m. and show starts at 9:00 p.m. The donation is \$20. Bring your own goodies for the table. Raffles and Silent Auction proceeds are to benefit the scholarship funds of both organizations. For tickets, call Kevin Caira at 978-657-7734.

Safety seat installation
Every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Public Safety Building, 1 Adelaide Street
The Wilmington Police Department offers safety seat installs at the Wilmington Public Safety Building (1 Adelaide St.) every Wednesday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. No appointment is necessary, but calling ahead at 978-658-5071 is recommended.

Knights of Columbus Cribbage
Mondays at 7:00 p.m.
Wilmington Knights of Columbus
The Wilmington Knights of Columbus will once again be hosting weekly cribbage matches. Games will be held

on Monday nights throughout the fall, winter and spring starting on Monday, September 11 at 7:00 p.m. The games are held in the member's lounge located in the lower level of the building and access is through the rear door. Admission is \$5 with most of that being returned to the first and second place finishers each week. This is an adult activity open to the readership of this newspaper as well as brother knights. The games are friendly head to head competitions and all skill levels are welcome. Adult beverages are available and the club has wide screen TVs to keep track of your favorite teams. For more information, please call Bob at 978-851-4985.

Wilmington Sons of Italy Junior Lodge
Fourth of July Building
Children ages 10-18 are eligible to join the Sons of Italy Junior Lodge, a local charitable organization. Applicants do not need to be Italian. Members of the lodge participate in numerous fundraisers and other events. The Junior Lodge has frequent community service events and several leadership positions available each year. Dues are \$10 per person for the year.



Let's Hear it!!

Your Two Cents...

No marijuana in Wilmington

I am so thankful Wilmington has banned the sale of marijuana. We are now all protected from a plant that has killed ZERO people in the history of civilization.
I now feel safe picking up my booze, cigarettes and prescription meds while texting and driving. Well done Wilmington, well done.

Want your opinion heard?

Send your Two Cents to:
twocents@YourTownCrier.com
All submissions must be accompanied by contact information for verification purposes.

Submissions exceeding 200 words will not be considered for publication.

All submissions chosen for publication will be done so anonymously.

Tewksbury Calendar:

Blue Christmas at Tewksbury Congregational Church

Blue Christmas
Thursday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m.
Tewksbury Congregational Church
Are you feeling blue this holiday season? Tewksbury Congregational Church is offering a Blue Christmas Worship Service on "the longest night" to minister to those in our community who have recently suffered a loss or for whom the holidays bring heartache or stress. All faiths are welcome to attend this service of hope which will feature TCC's Handbell Choir. Visit tewksburycc.org for more information.

TCC Christmas Eve Worship Schedule
Sunday, December 24
Tewksbury Congregational Church
Because Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, Tewksbury Congregational Church will offer their usual worship

service at 9:30 a.m., followed by two Christmas Eve services in the evening, scheduled at 6:30 p.m. (family-oriented service) and 10:30 p.m. Both Christmas Eve services will feature the Congregation singing Silent Night by candlelight. Experience the magic of Christmas at TCC. For more information, visit tewksburycc.org.

Tap class
Thursdays from 8:45 a.m.-9:30 a.m.
A fun, beginner level tap class that works on rhythm and basic tap steps put to upbeat music from the 50's through today's music!

Ipswich River Community Chorus
Jan. 8 & 15
North Reading, MA
Love to sing? Join the Ipswich River Community Chorus for the upcoming season! No auditions neces-

sary! Previous experience with 4 part choral pieces is helpful, but not required. We offer practice CD's to help you learn the notes! Open rehearsals are Jan. 8 and 15 at 7 p.m. Ongoing rehearsals on Mondays 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at 235 Park St. (Hall at Aldersgate UMC) North Reading. northreadingchorale.org. 978-587-1274

Habitat Lowell — Holiday Dine Around Raffle: Dine Out Every Month for a Year!
Win a basket of gift certificates for fine dining at some of our favorite restaurants in Northern Middlesex County. Habitat Lowell has put together a special holiday raffle to tantalize your taste buds!
Donated gift cards included in the raffle (valued at \$420) are from: 99 Restaurant, Capellinis, Cheesecake Factory, Evviva Cucina,

Flatbread Company, Good Thymes (2), Helen's, Moonstones, Sorentos Italian Gourmet, Tavern in the Square, Venetian Moon.
Raffle tickets are only \$10 or 3 for \$25, hardly the cost of 12 meals. Tickets are available until December 21st online at <http://bit.ly/dinearoundaffle2017> ...OR... at Habitat Lowell, 124 Main St, in Westford during regular business hours.
One lucky winner will get the opportunity to dine at some popular hot spots — drawing will take place on Dec 22 just in time for Christmas! Additional info can be found at lowellhabitat.org/news-events/upcoming-events/.
Proceeds benefit the revitalization project in Acre Neighborhood of Lowell — the ninth & tenth homes to be started in Spring 2018 as well as a Community Park on Franklin Street.

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

9			6	8	2	3		
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4	1	2	3				8	5
		6	8	2	5			9

12/18

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HOW TO PLAY:
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

6	7	1	5	2	8	9	3	4
9	8	2	6	9	3	2	1	7
9	3	2	7	1	1	6	8	5
2	2	6	9	3	7	1	5	8
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1	5	8	2	6	2	3	7	9
2	2	5	1	7	6	8	9	3
8	6	9	3	5	2	7	2	1
7	1	3	2	8	9	5	7	6

NOIHTOS

Today's CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 In addition
 - 5 Vain fellow
 - 8 Wharf
 - 12 Type of synthesizer
 - 13 "Exodus" hero
 - 14 Language of Pakistan
 - 15 Dining surface
 - 17 Mr. Stravinsky
 - 18 Compass dir.
 - 19 Authority
 - 21 Tea container
 - 24 Fa-la joiner
 - 25 — Plaines
 - 26 Galena, e.g.
 - 27 Disinclined
 - 30 Poolroom supply
 - 32 Internet suffix
 - 33 Get paid
 - 37 Not fooled
 - 38 Pablo's aunt
 - 39 Flying toy
 - 40 Primps
 - 43 Part of club (Abbr.)
 - 44 Venomous snake
 - 47 Freudian subjects
 - 48 Lariat
 - 50 Screw feature
 - 52 Watch chain
 - 53 Put (down)
 - 54 Red-flowering desert tree
 - 59 Actor Alan
 - 60 Question starter
 - 61 Apportion
 - 62 Look like
 - 63 Ensnare
 - 64 Brink

6	7	1	5	2	8	9	3	4
9	8	2	6	9	3	2	1	7
9	3	2	7	1	1	6	8	5
2	2	6	9	3	7	1	5	8
3	9	7	8	1	5	2	6	2
1	5	8	2	6	2	3	7	9
2	2	5	1	7	6	8	9	3
8	6	9	3	5	2	7	2	1
7	1	3	2	8	9	5	7	6

- DOWN**
- 1 Check fig.
 - 2 Mauna —
 - 3 Weep
 - 4 Stared at
 - 5 Destiny
 - 6 Baja gold
 - 7 Bach's instrument (2 wds.)
 - 8 One-liner
 - 9 Encouraged
 - 10 Love intensely
 - 11 Mongol tents
 - 16 "Orinoco Flow" singer
 - 20 Big T-shirts
 - 21 Designer Chanel
 - 22 Make — for it
 - 23 Bug repellent
 - 24 Sequence
 - 28 Rejected (2 wds.)
 - 29 Cartoon shriek
 - 31 Bribe
 - 34 Intentions
 - 35 I-95 et al.
 - 36 Clownfish of film
 - 41 Narrow inlet
 - 42 Vegas machine
 - 44 Book of maps
 - 45 Fossil rock
 - 46 Family of lions
 - 49 Tolerate
 - 51 Dutch cheese
 - 52 Tootsy
 - 55 Ernesto Guevara
 - 56 Conducted
 - 57 Drop behind
 - 58 Corrida cry

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
21	22	23			24			25		
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30		31		32			33	34	35	36
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53					54	55		56	57	58
59					60			61		
62					63			64		

12-19

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Tiny dancers

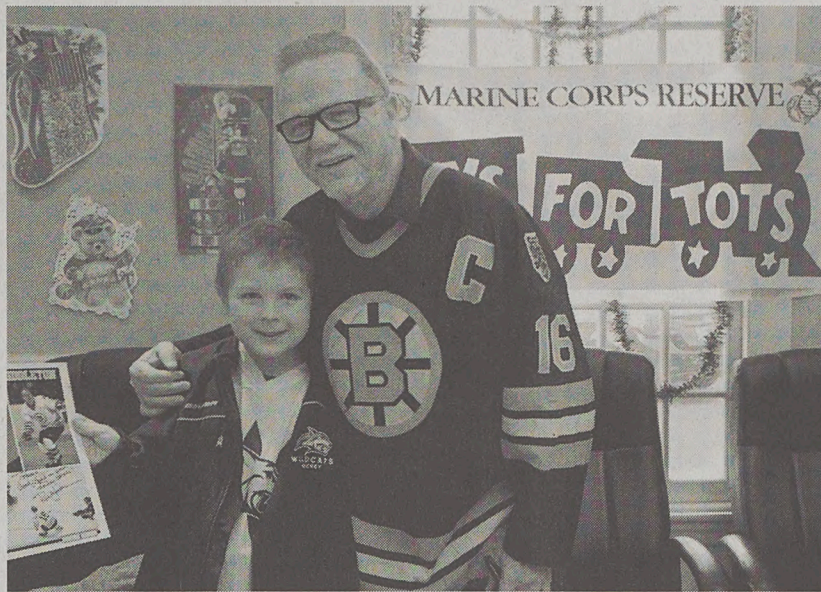
These little girls are all Wilmington residents and dancers from The Dance Company here in Wilmington. They performed alongside professionals out of New York in The Albany Berkshire Ballet Company's production of The Nutcracker (at the Lawrence High School) on Sunday, Dec. 17. The 2017 Nutcracker Cuties: TOP ROW, from left Gianna Vecchi, Alana Caralis; MIDDLE ROW, from left Ella Cormier, Mackenzie Scanlon, Emma Chirichiello, Maria McCarthy, Mikayla Cella; BOTTOM ROW, from left Giuliana Cormier, Avery Picard, Madison Tucker, Mallory Picard, Madison Scanlon, Elizabeth Patton, Ailynn Picard, Shannon Hounsell, Madison O'Donoghue

(Courtesy photo)

Middleton makes appearance for Toys for Tots

► Hockey fan 8th grader Tommy Macgilly-ray gets a big holiday hug from Boston Bruin Rick Middleton at West Realty's Toys for Tots event Sunday afternoon.

▼ Mary Ellen Fernald, Karen West, Rick Middleton, Gwen Scott, Joan Consolmagno, Back Row: Josh Guarnera from Amp 1033, Ron MacNeill, David McLaren, Max Pappas, Robin Theodos, John Wallace, Joe Cullen, Robert Cimeno, Frank West, Nathaniel Singer from AMP 1033 Radio. Sponsored by American Legion Post 136. (Photos: BruceHilliard.com)



Mattleman brings teen advice to Wilmington

TEENS FROM PAGE 1

University. Besides his bachelor's degree in government and master's in counseling from the University of Hartford, he has plenty of experience counseling families and young individuals.

"I also have two kids who have taught me about what bad parenting is," Mattleman shared. "I also learn from my wife who's a good parent."

His wisdom from his home life and his career in looking into the minds of teens makes for important dialogue for his talk.

Having known the WHS guidance department, it made sense in the program he's been doing around depression and suicide in a few different towns for Mattleman to come in for the workshop at WHS.

"I'm talking about things that are accessible; parents leave with strategies and appreciate the complexity of the things that their teens are dealing with."

He believes that the things he's talking about are cru-

cial for parents to know in this age of technology for their kids' emotional health.

He acknowledged that these informative sessions are exactly what he's most interested in doing right now.

"There are so many things that parents need to know," he explained. "We need to give parents language... to look at the emotional consequences of technology."

Mattleman can't minimize the fact that studies are showing that the more time kids are spending on social media, the more dangerous it is for their mental health.

The most important thing that parents can get out of this session is practical language to use with their teens, he said. He gave examples of the things that he says or has said to his own children — things like, "do you want me to talk or just listen?" or, "tell me more."

It could even be as specific as, "I know whatever you did was for a reason. It'd be helpful if you tell me about your reasoning processes."

These phrases, and more to be shared during the talk in

January, are designed to start dialogue where parents are able to listen instead of waiting to share what they think about a situation.

"Kids are supposed to make mistakes and it's OK. We need to pull back... as opposed to jumping in with judgment and punishment," Mattleman continued.

He gives information to help create understanding so that parents can consider what their kids are going through and how they're thinking about it.

Some of the things for parents to say look like self-talk, and others are actually to stop talking and start listening.

"Your teens know when they've done right. We don't always need to be teaching them."

He tells parents that a central part of their conversations with their teenagers should be listening, and he gives them real things to say that open up that space for their teenagers to talk.

"It's more important what they say than what we say." In all of the times he's giv-

en this workshop, Mattleman maintains that he's had nothing but positive feedback.

"A lot of communities like it when I come in," he said. "[The parents] feel energized when they're dealing with their teens."

He does not shy away from saying that the talk is actually enjoyable and relatable, which he hears from both teens and parents.

When he's not sharing insight into the lives of teens and making parents laugh themselves into learning, Mattleman enjoys visiting Northampton with his wife.

For more information about Mattleman, or for more emotional health and parenting tips, visit www.jonmattleman.com.

Election season begins after the new year

CALENDAR FROM PAGE 1

the moderator. All will be eligible for reelection in the upcoming election season, but new candidates are welcome to run for the positions, as well. If one wishes to enter the election, nomination papers can be pulled beginning on Jan. 2, 2018.

The annual town election is set to be held on April 28, 2018. At this election, town citizens that are registered to vote may vote for those running for positions within the local government.

Also included on the election calendar are other important dates, such as the dates for the

annual town meeting and the national general election. The 2018 annual town meeting is set for Saturday, May 5, 2018, and the general election, in which registered voters are able to vote for statewide and nationwide positions, is set for Nov. 6, 2018.

Currently, the date for the September 2018 primary has not been finalized yet, due to conflicts with Yom Kippur, but the date should be announced soon.

If you have any questions about running for local office this upcoming year, call the Town Clerk's office at (978) 658-2030.

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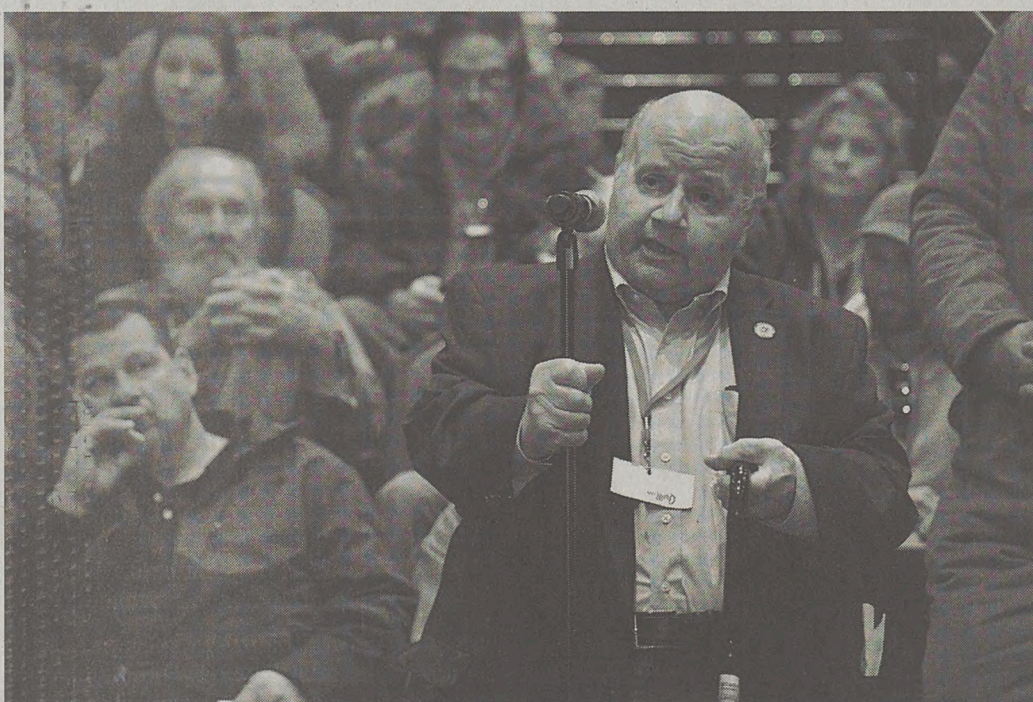
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(Next to Lucci Supermarket)

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Open Tuesday-Friday 7AM to 5:30 PM
Saturday 7 AM-4 PM • Closed Sunday & Monday

3 Barbers Available



State Representative Jim Miceli addresses the town's concerns at the Special Town Meeting Saturday morning at WHS. (photo: BruceHilliard.com)

Zoning measure adopted 366-62

DETOX FROM PAGE 1

trial and commercial zones in town. These larger medical facilities could include detox centers.

"As time went on," he explained, "more people came up to me, residents, professionals, and said it would be better to put everything under one roof."

Residents, by and large, found this to be a compelling option, ultimately adopting the measure with a 366-62 vote.

The original Article 1, which had contained very similar edits to local zoning

bylaws, was scrapped before the meeting began in favor of the "better-written" Article 2.

Many residents stood to speak in support of the measure.

One such resident was Dave Norton, who called it a "conservative approach," articulating a desire for further data metrics on detox centers and medical facilities while still keeping such facilities separate from residential neighborhoods.

"This could be your backyard, your children running around."

Others, however, expressed

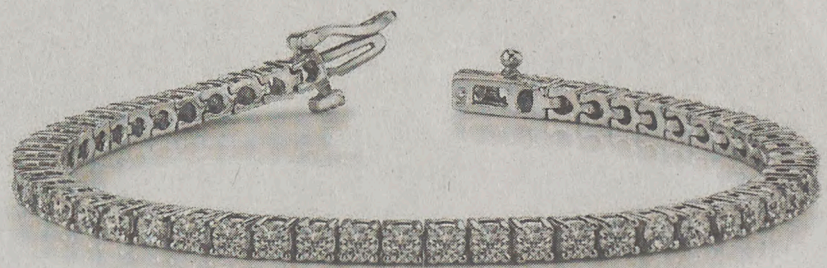
skepticism that changing the bylaw would prove necessary or effective. Many also expressed qualms with idea of pushing a vulnerable population towards the outskirts of town.

"It appears to me that the complete intent of this article is discriminatory to a protected class," said Mary Giroux.

Giroux cited the Dover Act, a Massachusetts General Law amendment which prohibits discrimination against such facilities as detox centers.

"(Addiction sufferers) are afflicted. It is a disease."

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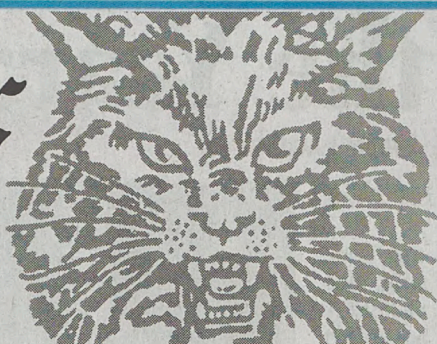
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Wilmington Town Crier's 24th annual

Female Athlete of the Year: Alexcia Luna

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

jamiepote@hotmail.com
WILMINGTON - In the 2017 calendar year, Wilmington High School senior Alexcia Luna was the best performer on both of her teams, the indoor and outdoor track-and-field teams. She led both teams in points. On top of that, she set or was part of four school records, was undefeated in league competition during the winter season,

while losing just once in outdoors, was a league all-star in four events and held the fastest time in the Middlesex League Freedom Division in both the 55-meter dash and the 300 during the indoor season. She also pulled off the inevitable of placing in three events at the Eastern Mass Division 4 Championship Meet during the indoor season and that came before placing in two events within about 20 minutes of another during the

Division 3 meet back in the spring.

The amazing part of all of that is she has only done track at WHS for three years - having been a cheerleader during her freshman year - while most of her accomplishments have come in her secondary events.

"When I first started coaching Alexcia, she wanted to do the hurdles," said track coach Brian Schell. "Watching her at practice keeping up with (former

WHS standout) Julia Gake, I kind of pictured Alexcia being more of a 300-meter runner. She ended up being that 300-meter dash runner and clearly she seems like she has fallen in love with that particular event. I'm glad she took my suggestion (of giving up the hurdles) and has gone full out for (the sprinting events). She has made the best of it."

Luna will graduate from WHS in June with eight varsity letters including one from this past cross-country season and the one from cheerleading. On the track, she has the four school records, has been a league all-star in multiple events over both seasons, has placed in the top five in six different events at the Eastern Mass Championship Meets, before going on to have respectable finishes at the two All-State Meets. She was also voted a Lowell Sun All-Star during last indoor season and her team's MVP both seasons as a junior.

And she still has two more seasons left to break more records, accomplish more goals and leave WHS as one of the all-time best sprinters the program has ever seen.

"I think she's a great choice (for Athlete of the Year) so congratulations to her," said Schell. "Obviously last year she had great seasons in both indoor and outdoor track. She has the school record in the 300, 4x200 indoors and then in the

200 and technically in the 100 (in computer time) outdoors. She works hard. Both Alexcia and Emma Garrity worked very hard together over the summer to keep themselves in shape so she shows that leadership quality that I'm looking for (as a senior captain). Alexcia also joined cross-country to get ready for this indoor season - doing some hill sprints and stuff like that we think will get her further in her progression and her goals."

THE HEART OF TEXAS

Luna grew up right outside of Abilene, Texas in a very small town.

"We were in the Central part of Texas, right smack in the middle of the state," she said.

As far back as Luna can remember, she said that she didn't spend afternoons in her room playing with Barbie dolls.

"When I was younger, I wouldn't really play with the girls, I would just race with the guys because I would always see them running and playing and I would say 'well I want to do that'. I would always race them and I thought I was pretty good. I would beat them sometimes. I think I definitely fell in love with track (and running) by the time I could walk," she said.

While she grew up in Texas, she moved back-and-forth from Texas to Massachusetts several

times.

"My Mom (Anica) married my step-dad (Sean), except I don't call him that, he's my Dad as he has raised me my entire life. He was from here in Wilmington," she said. "We moved to Wilmington when I was in the third grade. Then we moved to Tewksbury and lived there from when I was in the fourth through sixth grade. Then in seventh grade, I moved back to Texas, but in eighth grade I moved back here, spent the first half (of the school year) in Tewksbury and then the second half in Wilmington. I have stayed here ever since."

Alexcia said Sean played football and competed in track when he was younger and Mom also did track and was a sprinter as well. Alexcia also has a younger brother, Donovan, who is 13.

"When we were younger, (Donovan) used to beat on me," she said jokingly with a big laugh. "But I would always baby him and I still do now. But now that we're older, we're really close."

This marks the 24th annual Wilmington Town Crier Female Athlete of the Year. It's the first time the Crier has selected an all-track athlete (Kim Gillespie did two seasons of track back when she was named in 2000), and it's also the first time whether female or male, that an athlete of

LUNA PG SP2W



Wilmington High School senior Alexcia Luna, shown here during last year's indoor track season, broke four school records this past calendar year to highlight her personal accomplishments as the Town Crier's Female Athlete of the Year. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

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LAZER TAG

Female Athlete of the Year: Alexcia Luna

FROM PAGE SP1W

African-American descent has been selected as the winner.

"Really? Oh wow, that's so amazing," said Luna when hearing about that fact. "I am half African-American and half Mexican. It's really big honor that I was chosen (for the Athlete of the Year and to be the first African-American). It means so much to me."

STUCK INDOORS

Coming off her sophomore year which included being a part of the 4x400 relay team which won the team's final meet over Burlington, giving the Wildcats their first league title in program history, Luna had much bigger plans for her junior year. Since after all, it was only the third season she was on a track of some kind.

"In seventh grade when I moved back to Texas, I tried track for the first time," she said. "That's when I fell in love with the hurdles because I did the 300 (meter) hurdles at the time. I did that, the 100 (meter) hurdles and the long jump. They really didn't have the 200 or 300 (meter events)."

When Schell met Luna and saw how explosive she was on the track, he suggested that she give up the hurdles and concentrate on sprints/middle-distance events. That worked out right away as Luna won her first ever varsity race as a sophomore in the 300 with a 46.6 second time in the team's win over Melrose.

Her success helped the Wildcats finish 5-0 during that 2015-16 season and capture the league title. Then this past indoor season as a junior, she held the fastest times in the Freedom Division in the 55-meter dash of 7.58 and the 300 of 41.54, which was more than five seconds better than her original time as a sophomore. She went on to be named a league all-star in four events, the dash, the 300 and as part of both the 4x200 and 4x400 relay teams. She led the team in dual meet points with 30 and broke school records in the 300 and as part of the 4x200 relay team.

"We definitely had a goal of being league champions and we worked really hard for it, but we didn't get it but that's OK because we worked really hard and that's all that counts," she said when reflecting upon the team's winter season. "Indoor season is my favorite because I feel like I excel more during that season. The 300 is my favorite event and I have grown to love it. The 55 (meter dash) is good too, but I rather stick with the 300. The 4x200 relay is my favorite relay, and the 4x400 is also great, and I have gotten some really good times in those."

Luna had a terrific regular season which included being undefeated in the dash and the 300 and then at the League Championship Meet, she was third overall in the 55-meter dash and part of the fifth place 4x400 relay team.

It was the following weeks she really emerged. At the D4 Eastern Mass Meet, she was asked to do three events, which is an incredible feat, especially with your legs and of course mentally.

"That was a very busy day. (Doing three events) was no joke," she said. "We warm up and I do my event and then I cool down for a little bit just to warm back up again. I don't get to enjoy the meets, I don't get to cheer everyone on like I would wish too but (my teammates) understand and I appreciate that."

At that meet, Luna placed fourth in a very competitive section of the 300-meters, which included three-time divisional champ Tatum Pecci of Tewksbury.

"The top runner in the division scratched in that event," said Luna. "(Then) Tatum Pecci was in the heat and another girl (Isabella Berardi) from Norton. I was hoping for top three and when I didn't get that, it was a big hit in the face. I just said to myself that I can no longer expect things and I need to go out there and work for everything that I want. I was running as fast as I could and (on the final straightaway) I thought I could get third place but

(Berardi) passed me. I was devastated."

Luna barely had any time after that race to sulk. She had short time to rest only to come back and be a part of the fourth place 4x200 relay team along with Shannon Horgan, Thea Aliberti and Victoria Sheehan. Again after a short rest, she then joined up with Sheehan, Emma Garrity and Alyssa Bernazani to place fifth in the 4x400 relay race.

"It was really fun and a good experience to be on two relay teams at the same time and we all combined and had our time together," said Luna. "We all worked together as a team and even outside of track, we still try to hang out and we're still good friends."

Wilmington finished in seventh place as a team, the best place in decades.

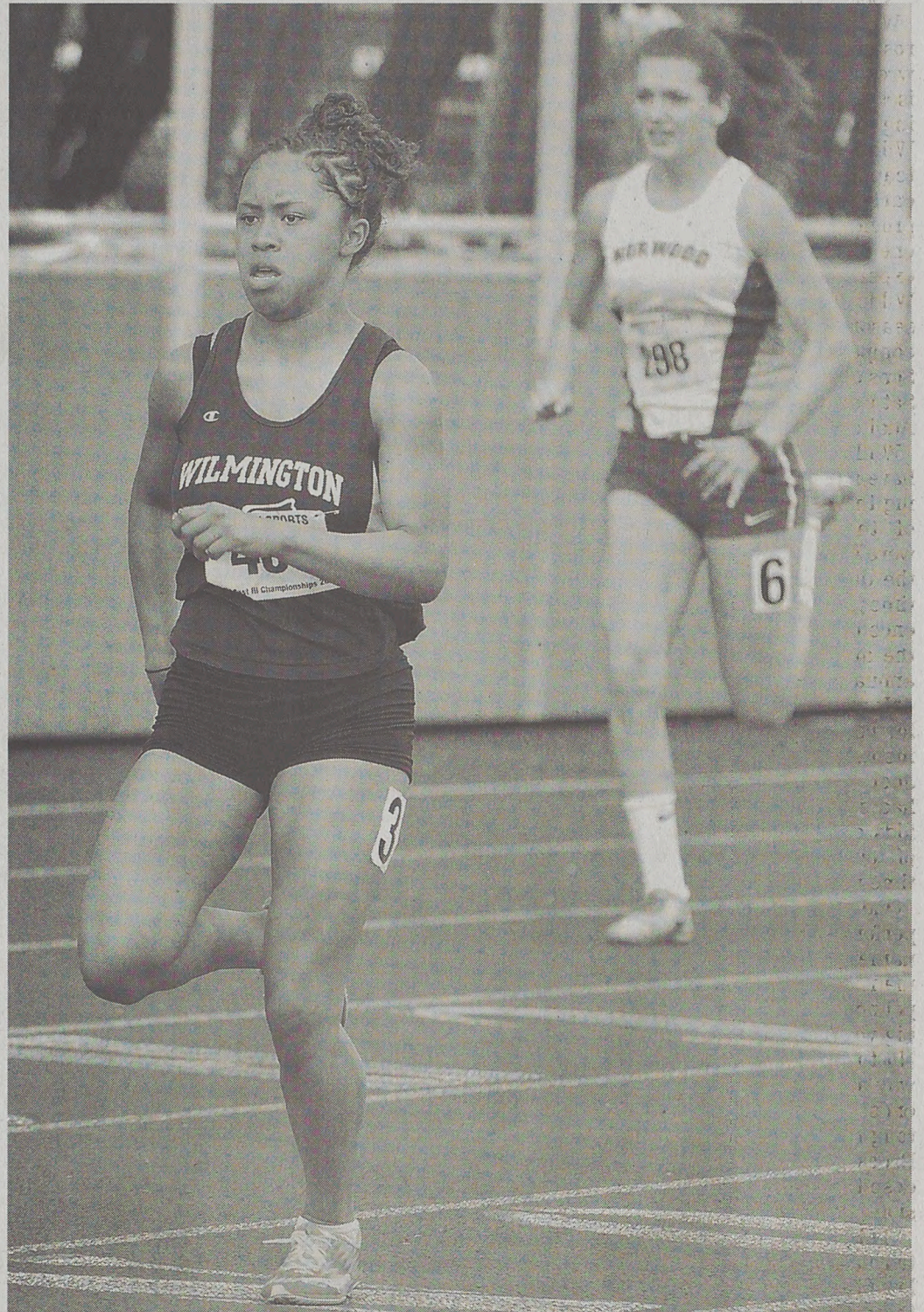
Luna then finished up her indoor season by competing at the All-State Meet where she finished 13th in the entire state in the 300-meters and was part of the 22nd place 2x200 relay team.

THE SPRING AIR

Certainly Luna expanded herself in the winter season, running the 55-meter dash, the 300 and then both the 4x200 and 4x400 relay teams. Well come spring, that trend continued. She ran the 100, 200 and 300, competed in the long jump and various relay races.

"In the 100, your start out has to be really quick and you have to keep that quickness for a long period of time," she said. "It looks like a short amount of time and distance, but once you are running it, it seems like it's forever. It's insane and I just say to myself 'gosh, when is this going to be over'? It's over in like 15 seconds."

"In the 200, you also have to start out fast, and keep it like you are running the 100 but for a longer period of time and distance. You have to have good form but you also have to have good turnover. Usually when you hit the 100 (meter) mark or towards the end, you have to keep your knees up like



Alexcia Luna placed in two events, the 100 and the 200 during the Division 3 Eastern Mass Championship Track-and-Field meet held at Burlington High School. (file photo).

(assistant) Coach (Joe) Patrone says.

"The 300 is a little different. On an outdoor track you see how far it is and you start to panic thinking you can't do it, or at least I say that to myself, but indoors (the track is smaller) so you see it and you say 'well that's not so bad'. But it's the same thing, when you are running you are asking yourself 'when is this going to be over'? Just to get through it is really, really some powerful stuff."

"I like the 300 the best because I think I do the best in it compared to the other events. I have (improved) my time (in the 300) and I have worked the most on the 300."

Luna accumulated an incredible 70 regular season points during this spring season, she won the 200-meter race during the prestigious Andover Booster's Meet before losing one Middlesex League race, coming in the 100-meters. She also broke the school record (computer time) in the 100-meters, as well as the 200.

"I really didn't think about (remaining unbeaten), honestly," said Luna. "I just wanted to get better (every meet) until I lost and then it was like 'oh no'. It wasn't on my mind at the time, but when I lost it definitely hit me hard, it was a minor set back for a major recovery."

She admitted that she the set backs continued a bit, including the Middlesex League Championship Meet. There she placed third in the 200 and 17th in the long jump.

"I was supposed to triple up that day," she said. "The long jump I barely even warmed up and that was my fault at the time and I ended up not doing as well as I thought or hoped. I wanted to qualify for the states but I was a little short of that. When I was done with the long jump, I started to warm up for the 200 trials with (former Wilmington High sprinter) Joe Gaudreau and all of those people. Then I got to the (starting) line and I got really nervous. I ran as fast as I could but honestly, my body was tired because it was the end of the year, it was hot and my legs were just really tired."

"After that was over, I started to get light-headed so I scratched myself out of

running the 100. I did make the finals in the 200 and I did (compete) but Wakefield's Alea Purcell passed me at like the 100-meter mark and that's where I was supposed to turnover. I thought I was, but I guess I really wasn't turning over."

Coming off that disappointing day, Luna put forth an incredible performance at the Division 3 Eastern Mass Championship Meet held on a hot afternoon at Burlington High School. She competed in both the 100 and 200-meter races, meaning she competed in four intense races on the day, counting the two pre-trial races. She finished fourth in the pre-trial heat of the 200, then rested for about an hour. She came back to place third in the pre-trial heat of the 100.

Then after the 800 meter race ended, Luna was back for the 200-meter finals, where she finished third at 26.22, which broke the school record set by Jackie Mello in 2004 of 26.23. Again the competition was very tough led by Pecci - who during the race blew out her hamstring. Luna then had another very quick break before the finals of the 100, and there she polished off her fantastic day by finishing fourth at 13.09 seconds.

"Luna competed four times and that's tough," said then head coach Brie Karow after that meet. "That's a hard thing to do. And the majority of her break came between the 200-meters and the 100-meter trials and then when she knew she was going to make the finals of both events, it was like 'bang-bang'. Even when I say the majority of her break, it really wasn't much of a break. That's a tough thing to do to run that hard for four different times."

Certainly the short breaks are one thing but getting your body, physically and mentally prepared for four different must-place races is an incredible amount of pressure, stress, anxiety and of course fatigue.

"It's very hard," Luna admitted. "I have to stretch a lot and I have to keep my body moving as much as possible. I can't sit down. If I do that, I'll just cramp all up and that wouldn't be a good day. I did the 200 trials and then right when that was over, I had to run back over to the 100. It may have been 15 or 20 minutes (inbe-

tween) but to me it felt like twenty seconds."

Those two performances at the state meet put Luna as the only representative from Wilmington to compete at the All-State Meet.

"Yes, I'm pumped, I can't believe it," Luna said to this reporter minutes after her two place finishes. "Honestly, I'm glad that I placed and I'm glad with my overall performance and I'm surprised I did so well today. I'm just excited to be able to go to All-States in two different events. It'll be my first time going to the all-state meet in the spring season."

LET'S SEW THIS UP

This past Friday afternoon, Luna started her senior indoor track season on the right foot as one of the team's captains of the indoor track season. She won the 55-meter dash with a personal best time of 7.54 seconds to qualify once again for the state meet, while she anchored the winning 4x400 relay team, including running a 61 second split - in her first meet of the season.

"Coaching her, Alexcia sets the example in every shape and form that I could ever ask for her in an athlete," said Schell. "We will work with her for this upcoming indoor season in the 55-meter dash, the 300, the 4x200 and 4x400 (relays). I know she also wants to work on her long jump. I know she has a lot of goals but it'll be one day at a time, and one meet at a time."

"As far as her work ethic goes, it's phenomenal and I couldn't have asked for anything more. Between having kids like (Elisabeth) Olson and (Julie) Gake as leaders of previous teams, I put Alexcia right there with them people I know I can count on, who put the work in during the off-season and during the season. What more could a coach ask for?"

Luna was asked about her plans after graduating from WHS in June.

"I'm still not committed (to a college yet)," she said. "I definitely want to go into Fashion Design. I'm very passionate about it and have been for a very long time."

Female Athlete of the Year

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Alexcia Luna

Olivia Wingate

Lauren Bennett

Lauren Fitch

Rachael Mara

Michelle Woods

Ashley Vitale

Brianne Bozzella

Brittney McLaughlin

Lani Cabral-Pini

Katie Cole

Brianne Bozzella

Debbie Lyons

Lani Cabral-Pini

Lauren Rappoli

Ashley Morgado

Jackie Rubino

Kim Gillespie

Kristen Kacamburas

Michelle McGonagle

Melissa Mather

Julie Gillis

Leanne Harris

Nancy Pote

Athlete of the 2000-'09 Decade: Lani Cabral-Pini

Athlete of the 90s Decade: Judy O'Connell

Wrestling team makes progress at annual SOI Tournament

By MIKE IPPOLITO
Sports Correspondent

sports@yourtowncrier.com
WILMINGTON - With a roster full of inexperienced wrestlers, this season promises to be one full of learning experiences for the Wilmington High Wrestling team, and while it is still early, this past weekend provided what is likely to be one of the greatest of those experiences that the Wildcats will encounter this season, as they hosted and competed in the Wilmington Sons of Italy Tournament on Saturday at the Shriner's Auditorium.

While the Wildcats did not have any place winners during the tournament, several of their young grapplers were able to pick up wins on the day, while at the same time taking in the experience of competing in one of the area's most prestigious annual tournaments.

"It was a good tournament for us, and a tough tournament," Wilmington coach Joel McKenna said. "We had some bright spots with kids competing in this type of tournament for the first time who did very well."

One of those wrestlers who performed well in his tournament debut was freshman Shane Penney at 106 pounds. Penney picked up a big win over Kris Rhoton of North Andover, pinning his way to victory in just 47 seconds, before putting up a tough battle against Brookline's Dylan Clifford despite dropping a 12-7 decision.

"This was his first varsity tournament, so it's a tough learning experience against this type of competition, but it is a good experience for him, and to get some wins under his belt is nice," McKenna said. "He learned how to be in a tournament with the big guys."

Sophomore Jacob Bernard also performed well at 113 pounds, putting on a tough

battle against Greater Lowell's James Githito before dropping a 13-11 decision.

"It was also his first varsity tournament, and he did well," McKenna said. "He had a good day, but he ran into some stiff competition. In the end, it was not the day that he wanted, but he did well for himself."

Senior Brenden Ross went 1-2 on the day, being eliminated by Central Catholic's Jose Penalo after a tough battle. Ross is not your typical senior wrestler, having just taken up the sport this season, but much like his younger teammates, McKenna feels like Ross will benefit from the experience he gained at Saturday's tournament.

"He has been wrestling for about two and a half weeks, and he got himself a win today. He almost got a second win, but his inexperience caught up to him a little," McKenna said. "But he has shown a lot of growth in the three weeks he has been with the team. He's a big guy, and he's got a lot of strength and a lot for things going for him. He is a heart and soul guy. He never gives up. He was down in his last match, but he kept fighting, and kept battling back."

Another Wildcats senior, Mike DeLucia went 2-2 on the day at 220 pounds, dropping his first round match to eventual champion Omar Eldaly of Shawshen, before pinning Central Catholic's Anthony Mears in 52 seconds and then getting a win over Danvers Ted Ambiotis and finally being eliminated by Peabody's Pat Makoci.

"He's looking good. He got himself a couple of victories and put himself in position to place," McKenna said. "So, there was some good growth stuff for him, as there was for a lot of kids."

While the Wildcats did not get as many wins on the day

as they would have liked, McKenna says that much bigger things than wins and losses were accomplished at the tournament and throughout the week for his team.

"I think as the season goes on, we will look back on it and hopefully we will have grown from this as we get into the meat of our schedule after the holidays," McKenna said. "We had a great win on Wednesday over Melrose, so hopefully we will build on that as well."

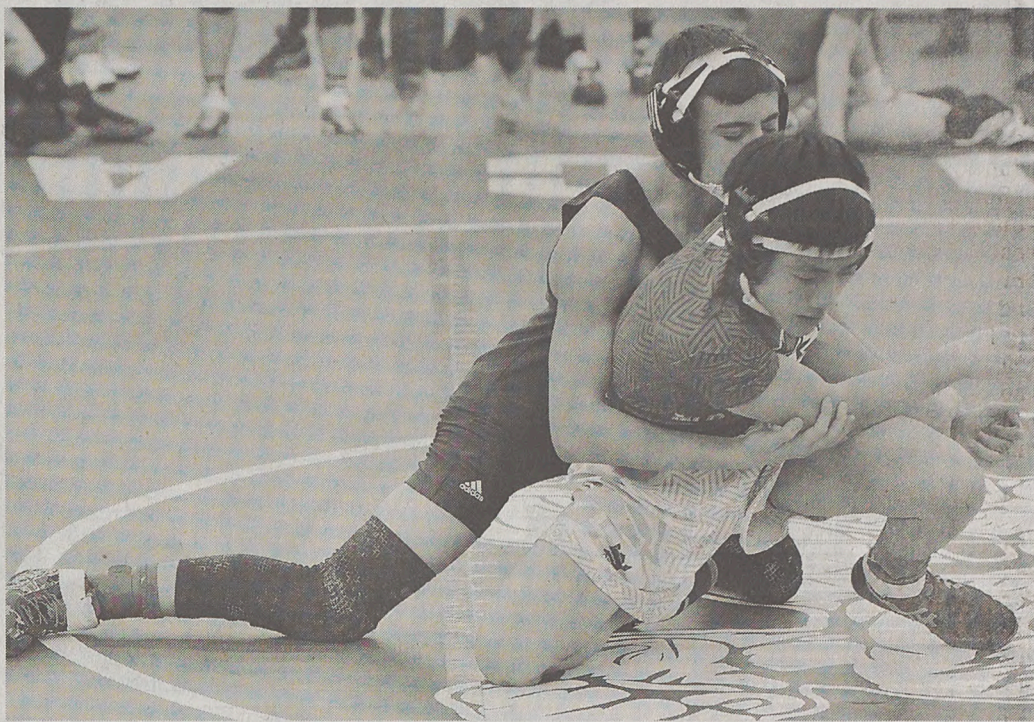
The win that McKenna referred to over Melrose by a score of 41-36 was a huge one for the Wildcats, as Melrose is the defending Division 3 state champions. And this is not a watered down version of the defending champs, as the Red Raiders returned all but two wrestlers from last year's championship team.

"It was a great team win," McKenna said. "Everybody was wrestling to the best of their ability, and kids were cheering each other on. It was a great team environment and a great win."

The Wildcats had several big wins on the day, with Penney starting things off with a victory by pin at 106 pounds, followed by wins by pin for freshman Joe Ganley at 120 pounds and junior Alex Stearns at 126 pounds.

Senior captain Pat Carroll kept the Wildcats on the winning track with a 3-2 win at 152 pounds, while Brenden Ross got his first ever varsity win with a pin at 195 pounds and senior Paxton Cook got a victory by pin at 285 pounds.

"Between that win and some of the competition we saw today (at the Sons of Italy), that is how you get better," McKenna said. "With our kids and the limited experience we have this year, these will be the types of things we can build on."



Wilmington High's Jacob Bernard puts a move on his opponent during Saturday's annual Sons of Italy Wrestling Tournament held at the Shriner's Auditorium.

(photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

Little League registration information

Registrations for the Spring 2018 Baseball/Softball season are open. We have programs for Small Diamond Baseball (Ages 7 - 12), Big Diamond Baseball (ages 13-16), as well as Softball (ages 6-14). The birth date of your child will dictate what divisions of play are available for you at registration.

The early registration discount (until Dec 31st) and multiplayer discounts are applied in your cart at checkout. To receive the multiplayer discount all players must be registered and checkout together.

Baseball
Senior - ages 14-16 (14 yr old high school freshman will play Senior). Play is on the big baseball diamond in the MBDL (Middlesex Big Diamond League) against other towns N. Reading, Woburn, Stoneham & Lynnfield. No tryouts required.

Junior - ages 13-14. Play is on the big baseball diamond in the MBDL (Middlesex Big Diamond League) against other towns N. Reading, Woburn, Stoneham & Lynnfield. No tryouts required.

AAA - age 10, 11 & 12 (who did not get selected for Majors). Player pitch with Junior umpires.

AA - age 9. Player pitch from the beginning of the season. Junior umpires for games.

A - age 8. Continues working on fundamentals of baseball through games and practices. Coach pitch with player pitch later in the season.

Rookie - age 7. Our first year division. Teaches the fundamentals of baseball through games and practices. Coach pitching for the entire year.

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U10 Born in 2007 or 2008
U12 Born in 2005 or 2006
U14* Born after 8/31/2002 and before 1/1/2004 (All players who are age-eligible for ninth grade are age-eligible to play U14*.)

Registration and Cost:
Until 12/31/2017:
\$90-1st player, \$45 each additional player
1/1/2018 until 1/31/2018:
\$110-1st player, \$55 each additional player
1/31/2018 until 3/1/2018
\$160 All Players. No Discounts
After 3/1/2018
Players will be added to a Waitlist.

(*Multiplayer discount may be combined w/Baseball if done in same registration).



Herb Chambers



2012 Kia RIO SX GDI \$8,698
H171697, Blue, 64K miles

2009 Honda Civic EX-L Sedan \$8,998
H1801331, Gray, 63K miles

2011 Honda Civic VP Sedan \$8,998
H171850, Silver, 65K miles

2011 Nissan Rogue SL AWD \$9,498
H172107, Gray

2010 Prius Liftback \$9,998
H171752, Black, 69K miles

2010 Toyota Camry LE \$9,998
H172095, Blue, 52K miles

2013 Prius 4 Door Hatchback \$10,998
H180049, Orange, 48K miles

2013 Honda Accord EX-L Sedan \$12,898
H180142, White

2013 Dodge Grand Caravan SE \$12,998
HP57461, Blue, 35K miles

2012 Honda Accord EX-L Navigation \$13,698
H180290, Black, 67K miles

2015 Honda Fit LX Hatchback \$14,498
HP5838, Black, 23K miles

2012 Toyota Sienna LE \$14,498
H172096, Gray, 85K miles

2015 Honda Fit LX Hatchback \$14,998
H180034, Gray, 26K miles

2010 Honda CRV EXL 4WD \$14,998
H180437, Polished Metal, 53K miles

2016 Ford Focus Titanium Hatchback \$14,998
H170700, Red, 33K miles

2015 Honda Civic LX Sedan \$14,998
HP5827, Black, 25K miles

2015 Mazda 3 Grand Touring HB \$15,498
H171994, Gray, 29K miles

2013 Honda CRV LX 4WD \$15,998
H172060, Blue, 57K miles

2015 Honda Civic LX Sedan \$15,998
H172096, Silver, 9K miles

2015 Honda Civic LX Sedan \$15,998
HP5826, Urban, 17K miles

2014 Honda Accord Sport Sedan \$16,698
H180137, White, 48K miles

2016 Honda Civic LX Sedan \$16,898
HP5837, Red, 16K miles

2012 Honda CRV EXL RES AWD \$16,998
HP5875, Silver, 62K miles

2014 Honda Accord EX Sedan \$16,998
HP5782, Modern Steel, 27K miles

MANAGER'S SPECIALS

2011 Ford Fiesta SE

#H180164
Magenta, 49K mi.
\$6,998

2008 Pontiac G6 Sedan

#H171696A
White, 57K miles
\$7,498

2007 Buick Lucerne CXL Sedan

#H171696
Gray, 53K miles
\$8,498

2012 Hyundai Accent GLS Sedan

#H180302
Silver, 57K miles
\$8,498

2010 Toyota Corolla LE

#H180102
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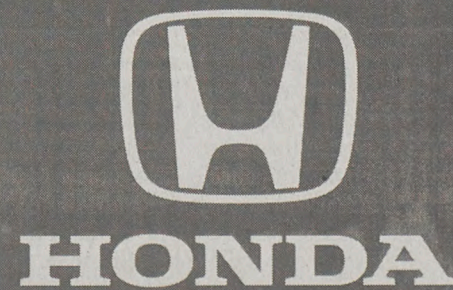
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Wildcats skate past Woburn, 3-1, in season opener



Wilmington High junior forward Ryan Barrett slips past a Woburn defender and gets a shot on net during Saturday's 3-1 season and league opening win held at the Ristuccia Arena. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

jamiepote@hotmail.com
WILMINGTON - Before the season began, Wilmington High School Boys' Hockey Coach Steve Scanlon stressed that his players needed to stay out of the penalty box this season, especially since minor penalty infractions went from 90 seconds to two minutes.

On Saturday, the Wildcats didn't do that - called for five penalties including three in the third period. Luckily, only the fifth one hurt, as the 'Cats were able to stake a 3-0 lead after the second period before Woburn scored a late power play goal. Wilmington held off Woburn's last minute scurry with their goalie out of the net and hung on for the 3-1 season opening Middlesex League crossover game held at the Ristuccia Arena.

"We just said that to them in the locker room," said Scanlon. "We were up 3-0 and had a chance to put them away but instead it's a parade to the penalty box. Now that the penalties are two minutes, it's going to cost you. It burns legs. We took ten minutes in penalties today and you're not going to get away with that. You are going to pay (when you give other teams multiple power play (chances))."

The teams played to a scoreless first period with neither team really having a legitimate scoring chances. In the second period, the 'Cats played very well. Danny Woods scored two similar goals, coming some space behind the Woburn defense and beating the goalie on a backhand move upstairs. His first tally came with 3:31 left and that was unassisted and then his second came on a nice flip pass by Bobby Lord coming with 3:27 left in the period.

Wilmington then made it 3-0 with 34 seconds left in the period. Ryan Barrett did a great job of taking the puck into the Woburn zone and while stopping in his tracks, he paused and waited for help. When he saw that help, he sent the puck over to the slot, and after a deflection from linemate Joey Mirabella, the puck landed on the stick of Connor Benoit who buried it home.

Both teams combined for five penalties throughout the third period and Henry Johnson then got Woburn on the board with a power play tally coming with 3:30 left in the game.

Wilmington outshot Woburn 33-20, and junior Anthony Cuozzo played very well in the net, making 19 saves to earn his first varsity win.

"Overall I thought we played good defensively, but



Wilmington High senior forward and assistant captain Tom Worob moves through the neutral zone with the puck during Saturday's 3-1 home win over Woburn. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

it hurt losing (Conlin Duffy to a shoulder injury). It threw us off a bit," said Scanlon. "For the most part our defensive zone coverages were pretty good. I didn't like what I saw on the last shift. But overall, it's nice to win that first one (of

the season) especially being at home for the seniors so we'll take it. We're going to have to play better and I think the sleeper team in the Liberty Division is going to be Belmont (who we have next). They have a lot back and a good goalie and then

Reading after that.

"I thought Cuozzo handled himself well in the net. You can't fault him on their power play goal. Once you give a team that many opportunities, they are going to score."

Wilmington faced Belmont

(10-7-4 last year) on the road Wednesday with results not known as of presstime before coming back home Saturday for a noon time face-off against an excellent Reading (12-9-2 last year) team.

Returning Division 1 Champs blank Wilmington, 6-0

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

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WILMINGTON - For two periods, the Wilmington High School Girls Hockey team - winners of four games last year - trailed the returning Division 1 state champion Woburn, 1-0, in the 2017-18 season opener played Saturday afternoon at the Ristuccia Arena.

In the third period, Woburn's experience and Wilmington's lack of it as well as depth was exposed and the Tanners scored five goals for the 6-0 Middlesex League cross-over victory.

"The big thing is we went with two lines because of their strength and in the third period, that's usually when that shows up," said Wilmington's first-year head coach John LaPiana. "Even though I think for the most part our girls are pretty well conditioned at this point of the season, I think by the third period we were grinded down a little bit.

"I think (Woburn) found a couple of soft spots in our (defensive zone) coverage and then obviously we had penalties that came back to bite us. They had three power play goals."

Wilmington was outshot 41-6 in the game and 27-4 through two periods. Sophomore Melanie Hayden played exceptional through the first two periods, making 26-of-27 stops.

"For her to (stop 35 shots) is pretty impressive," said LaPiana. "She did a good job. A couple of those goals

were redirects and those are hard to track and you can't fault anyone on that. There was a lot of traffic in front of the net and they were on a 5-vs-4 advantage so the back door was open. You can't account for everyone as that's the power play with one more of them than there are for us."

Woburn took the 1-0 lead scoring midway through the first period as Marissa Gregory scored a power play goal on a set up by teammates Cailin Flynn and Georgie Santullo.

The score stayed the same through the second period. Wilmington had a golden chance to tie the game up on its own power play bid early in the second period as Danielle Silva redirected a shot taken by Lia Koukoutas in front of the net but it was turned away by Woburn goalie Amanda Essigmann.

In the third period, Wilmington wore down, especially on the penalty kills, and Woburn took advantage of the man-advantage and several uncovered players in front of the 'Cats net. Santullo - who last year registered 61 points - scored two of the five third period goals and assisted on two others, while Gregory added her second, Erin McComiskey and Kelsey Fiocello added single tallies.

"The effort and the energy was excellent," said LaPiana. "We knew we had our hands full. We are playing the iron right out of the gate once again, so we knew that we would have our hands full coming in so we



Wilmington High freshman Maria Hernandez gets checked off the puck by a Woburn player during Saturday's 6-0 season opening loss held at the Ristuccia Arena. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

were fine with that. It's good to see where your weaknesses are and what needs to be addressed.

"I like the energy and I like the systems that we have in place. They are only going to improve. These girls are seeing some new systems for the very first time so there was a lot of our sticks on

puck and a lot of shots blocked (in our defensive zone). I think that's new to the girls to get sticks and bodies in the lane and we have a defensive zone coverage which I think will pay dividends."

Wilmington played without senior captain Jill Miele, who had knee issues but

should be back for the team's next game. The Wildcats are also without defenseman Molly Foley for the entire season as she had knee surgery.

"Molly is out all year and we hope to have her back for next year. She'll be a big addition. She's a great kid and she's talented," said

LaPiana.

Wilmington faced Belmont (5-15-2 last year) on Wednesday with results not known as of presstime before staying home on Saturday (2 pm) to face an excellent Reading team (16-3-1 last year).

WHS Boys and Girls Track teams fall in opener

John Kenney breaks 55-meter dash record in first track meet

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

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BOSTON - Both the Wilmington High School boys-and-girls indoor track teams were defeated in their season and league openers on Friday held at Boston University. The boys fell 73-18 to Wakefield and the girls also lost by a score of 60-31.

The big news from the day belonged to Wilmington High senior John Kenney. After he displayed his incredible speed and athleticism during the football season, the former Central Catholic football and track athlete immediately made an impact as a Wildcat. He competed in the 55-meter dash and set a school record with a time of 6.75 seconds, breaking the mark previously held by Evan Sperlinga of 6.80 back in the 2013-'14 season.

"John was the fastest in the league out of 48 runners," said head boys coach Mike Kinney. "He has some serious speed. He goes about his business at practice, and in pre meet situations in a very professional manner. It should be fun to watch him compete for the rest of the season."

Wilmington had two other first place finishes with Sam Vince in the 55-meter hurdles (8.64) and then Tom Hogan in the 300 (41.41).

"Sam Vince ran a Freedom Division best in the hurdles with 8.64. He won his heat and is .26 off from setting a school record which was set by Chris Calway of 8.38 in 2001," said Kinney.

Mike Fothergill placed in two events taking second in the high jump at 5-3 and third in the 55-meter hurdles at 9.18. The other point scor-

ers came from Joe Lydon in the mile (5:04.32), Kevin Elderd in the 1,000 (2:55.77) and James Sheehan in the shot put (35-03.35) with all three coming away with a third place finish.

"We ran up against a very strong Wakefield team. I would say they are favorites for the league championship," said Kinney.

Turning to the girls' team, the Wildcats had four first places, three second places and a pair of third places to account for the team's scoring.

"Coming into the meet against Wakefield, they too are a young team like us but it was that much more experience they had that made the difference in the overall results," said head coach Brian Schell. "They are the defending league champs, so we knew we had our hands full the first meet. Despite the score I was very pleased with everyone's performances."

Senior captain Alexcia Luna was first in the 55-meter dash with a personal best time of 7.54 seconds. She also anchored the winning 4x400 relay team joining Emma Garrity, Julie McLaughlin and Evelyn Miller-Nuzzo, who had a combined time of 4:23.7, including a 61 second split by Luna.

"Lexi Luna started the meet off strong for us taking first place and qualifying for states in the dash running a personal record of 7.54," said Schell. "The start of her 300 meter race is something we talked about and needed to work on and having her run the dash today to focus on it. She looked good the whole race, including anchoring the 4x4 team in a 61 second leg to help build some endurance

as well."

Garrity also won the 1,000 coming in at 3:28 and McLaughlin also took the 300 at 48.14.

Wilmington had three second places with Amie Russell in the shot put (30-9), Hannah LaVita in the high jump with a personal record of 4-10 and Mia O'Connell in the 600 (2:00).

"Amie Russell came out strong in the shot put taking second place overall with a throw of 30-9," said Schell. "She was just shy of missing states, but to be this close the first meet is definitely a good sign. The biggest thing for her today is coming into the season starting off where she left off last spring. She works hard and as long as she doesn't try to over do it, focus more on her technique then she will get that state qualifying mark."

"Hanna LaVita had a big day in the high jump taking second place at a height of 4-10. She joined last spring season and more experience is going to help reach that state qualifying 4-11. It is tough to work with the high jump crew when trying to share the gym with the basketball team, but Coach (Joe) Patrone has done great with them over the last year and I can't thank him enough."

Rounding out the place finishers were Kiki Barnum in the 55-meter hurdles (11.41) and Gianna Misuraca with a personal record of 13:44 in the two-mile.

"Overall, it was a good meet and I got a great sense of how things look into our rebuilding process," said Schell. "With Watertown next, it will be a good time to move some people around especially into new events they never competed in."

Where's the Action?

Day	Date	Sport	Opponent	Time
Wilmington High Sports				
Thursday	December 21	V Boys Hoop	vs Reading	6:00 pm
Thursday	December 21	V Girls Hoop	at Reading	6:00 pm
Friday	December 22	Boys/Girls Track	va Watertown at RLC	4:00 pm
Saturday	December 23	V Boys Hockey	vs Reading	12:00 pm
Saturday	December 23	V Girls Hockey	vs Reading	2:00 pm
Tuesday	December 26	V Girls Hockey	at Wakefield	5:00 pm
Wednesday	December 27	V Boys Hockey	vs Scituate at Haverhill TBA	
Thursday	December 28	Boys/Girls Track	vs Stoneham at BU	9:00 am
Thursday	December 28	V Wrestling	at Framingham Tourn	10:00 am
Shawsheen Tech Sports				
Thursday	December 21	V Boys Hockey	vs Pentucket	7:10 pm
Friday	December 22	V Boys Hoop	vs Mystic Valley	7:00 pm
Saturday	December 23	V Boys Hockey	at Saugus	7:00 pm
Tuesday	December 26	V Boys Hockey	vs Wayland at Haver	7:00 pm
Tuesday	December 26	V Girls Hockey	at Warrior Tourn	TBA
Wednesday	December 27	V Girls Hockey	at Warrior Tourn	TBA
Thursday	December 28	V Boys Hoop	at Matignon	6:30 pm
Thursday	December 28	V Girls Hoop	vs Lowell Catholic	6:30 pm
Thursday	December 28	V Boys Hockey	at Haverhill Tourn	TBA

Girls Basketball team off to 0-2 start

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

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WILMINGTON - With bronchitis spreading throughout the entire roster, the start of the season for the Wilmington High School girls' basketball team certainly hasn't gone as planned. The 'Cats opened the season up with two blowout losses, first to Woburn, 58-31, on Friday night and then to Belmont, 51-29, on Tuesday night at home.

First-year head coach Jessica Robinson watched her team play a strong first half on Tuesday, trailing by a point after the first quarter and then by eight at the half, before the team really struggled offensively in the second half scoring just nine points, a trio of three-pointers, two coming in the final two minutes of the game.

"We start the season playing three of the top ten Division 1 teams in the state," she said. "So we're going through some tough scheduling stuff. But I want to stress the positives. We played a heck of a first half against a very strong (Belmont) team. We just

need to work on playing a full 32-minute game."

Wilmington trailed 4-3 early on Tuesday before senior center Caroline Andersen came off the bench. She is one of the players sick, so Robinson elected not to start her. Andersen gave the team some life being a strong presence in the paint and was fouled multiple times. She scored six of her eight points in the final 3:47 of the first quarter as the 'Cats trailed 12-11.

After Andersen fed Morgan Bresnahan with a bucket to give the 'Cats a 13-12 lead with 5:50 left in the half, it was all Belmont from there on. The Marauders went on a 12-0 run before Wilmington was able to cut it down to eight at the break.

Belmont then outscored Wilmington 12-3 in the third quarter and opened the fourth on a 8-0 run to go up 48-23. The 'Cats seemed to have a tough time breaking Belmont's press and half court traps.

"I think we started to panic once we got pressured," said Robinson. "That led to a couple of turnovers and from there I think that stuff started to get into our heads. Now

this is behind us, so we need to prepare for Reading on Thursday. We want to do a better job handling pressure, and hopefully turn things around by scoring some more baskets."

Bella Granara led the way with 9 points, followed by Andersen's 8. Wilmington had 21 turnovers, and finished 5-for-17 from three-point land and went 4-for-8 from the line.

In the loss to Woburn, Bresnahan led the way with 10 points.

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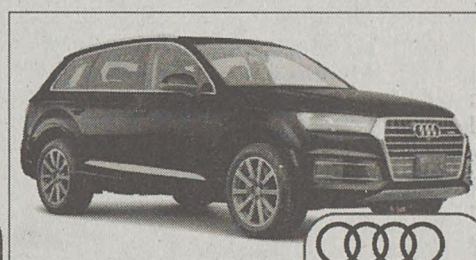


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Boys fall flat on the court

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

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WILMINGTON - Just three days after scoring 96 points in the team's season opening non-league victory over Norfolk Aggie Tech, the Wilmington High School Boys Basketball team was on the other side of a blowout game, losing 75-43 to Woburn held Friday night at the Cushing Memorial Gymnasium.

In this loss, Wilmington threw up a brick - everything they threw up to the net seemed to miss, while teamwork, defense and energy seemed to lack from the get-go until the final whistle.

"We obviously have to be a whole lot better," said an upset head coach Dennis Ingram. "There's not much things that we did well tonight. We played against a good team and that's one of the things that's not going to change. We play against good teams every single night. Twice a week, we get two really good opponents, who are well-coached whose kids are ready to play, so if you're not ready to play, that is what happens to you."

"It's disappointing to me and I hope it's disappointing to the kids in the locker room. If it's not, then it's a long season but if it is, then

we can turn this around. You can work on your execution."

Wilmington actually led 9-3 through the first 3:33 of the game before being outscored 39-10 with 2:30 left in the third quarter which put Woburn ahead 42-19 at that time. The Tanners closed out the first quarter outscoring Wilmington 9-2, closed out the second quarter outscoring Wilmington 9-3 and opened the third quarter on runs of 9-0 and 15-1.

On the night, the Wildcats went 5-for-26 from three-point land (19 percent) and also were 13-for-20 from the free throw line (65 percent).

Graham Smith led the way for Wilmington with 19 points, 16 coming in the second half. He buried three consecutive treys and scored 13 of his points in a 4:11 span.

Danny Gracia finished with 7 points and 6 rebounds, while Chris Grecco and Joey Rebeiro each had five points.

Wilmington also was in foul trouble all night and in the fourth quarter, three starters fouled out of the game.

For Woburn, four players ended in double figures including Matt Juko (8 points), Anthony Morales (13 points), Ryan Ludwig (12) and Austin Stachowski



Wilmington High's Stephen Anthony tries to keep the ball in-play during Friday night's Middlesex League loss to Woburn held at the Cushing Memorial Gymnasium. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com)

(10).
"It doesn't get any easier so there's no time to feel bad for yourself. You have to go

home, take the day off (on Saturday) and get back at it on Sunday and looking at your next opponent."

Wilmington lost to that next opponent, Belmont, 82-43, on Tuesday night to fall to 1-2 on the season.

Wilmington will host Reading on Thursday night at 6:00 pm.

Wilmington Youth Hockey Senior Player Profiles

This is a second and third in a series of articles celebrating Wilmington Youth Hockey's graduating class of seniors. This year, WYH will graduate 13 boys from the organization. We, in the organization, are proud of our seniors. Many many years ago, the boys were given a jersey with a "W" on the chest and they leave youth hockey with a "W" on their chest. Some would never leave and others took many travels but in the end they finished representing Wilmington because they started a Wildcat and will always be a Wildcat.

This year, Wilmington Youth Hockey will graduate Ryan St Jean, Bobby Lord, AJ McKearney, Micheal DuCharme, Jarred Aucoin, Calvin Stafford, Steve Bowker, Nate Demico, Max Shapiro, Tom Worob, Joe Mirabella, Tom Robarge and Dylan Bresnahan.

This week's edition: Joe Mirabella, Moe DuCharme, Ryan St. Jean and Stephen Bowker.

Joe Mirabella

Joe Mirabella finished his Wilmington Youth Hockey career in style winning the U18 State Tournament. Joey paired with Bobby Lord all tournament long as a hugely successful offensive line. Joey's mission for a monster senior year was off and running earlier in the season when he scored all three goals against Maine Hockey.

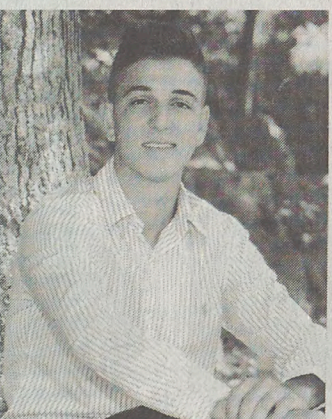
Joey accomplished a great fall season; all the while he was captaining the varsity soccer team for the high school. Although the soccer record was not what he would hope for, it was the conclusion of a very successful high school career on the grass. Joey's leadership abilities were paid off with the captain's designation.

Like so many in WYHA, Joey started his youth hockey career doing Learn to Skate and Learn to Play attending early morning practices with Coach Scott Stafford. Joe's hockey career blossomed in youth hockey. He will never forget winning in tournaments with Wilmington and most of all playing as childhood pals that are his teammates of today.

As a player Joey plays bigger than his size. He good hands, great wheels and consistently plays with high energy. As a returning vari-



JOE MIRABELLA



ty player, big things will be expected of Joe. He will likely be asked to bring his scoring prowess as a top six forward.

Next year, Joe plans to attend a four-year college with interests in Marketing/Business.

Joe would never have accomplished all his hockey goals without the guidance and help of his parents Paula and Joe. Joe is also thankful for the many coaches he had through the years.

Moe DuCharme

If you have attended a sporting event in Wilmington, you likely know or have seen the DuCharme family. Linda and Bob don't miss an event. The middle child is Michael but you only know him as Moe. Moe is part of the graduating class of 2017-18 for Wilmington Youth Hockey.

Don't judge Moe by the thin legs and arms, he is fearless. He will throw a check against any size. If he loses one battle of body weight, that will not stop him throwing the next check. Moe's on-ice versatility is a big asset as he is equally comfortable in all forward positions. During the great State Tournament run, Moe and Nate Dimeco



MOE DUCHARME



Ryan St. Jean

Stand in any rink that Ryan St. Jean is manning the net, and you will hear bellows of sound echoing on the ice. The sounds are coming from behind the goalie mask. Ryan is not only a goalie he is the field general barking instructions, tips and encouragement. Goalies can be leaders on the ice too.



RYAN ST. JEAN



Ryan has high expectations for his senior year high school season; he is the incumbent starting goalie and the backbone of the team. Besides his coaching from the net, he is a very active athletic goalie with great instincts and anticipation.

Ryan is also a multi-sport athlete that will play lacrosse in the Spring. Next year, Ryan will start working full time in the family business. Ryan's Dad Ray is the owner of St Jean Heating and Cooling and Ryan hopes to not only take over the business someday but continue to grow the company name.

Stephen Bowker

On the last game of the season while Steven Bowker was a buzzer at the age of eight, he took his turn as goalie of the game and never looked back. From that day forward, Steve was goalie.

Steven has always been a good goalie, but even a better person. Always mature beyond his years and always a gentleman. Steve is a big kid with a big heart, willing to stick up for any teammate. In the locker room, he was always the first to arrive and last to leave. We should have given the keys to close Ristuccia when was finally dressed.

In the locker room, he has a calm and a pleasant presence. Steve is easy to converse with and sat calmly with a smile when the room was chaotic. In the net, he has different demeanor, a little bit fiery. If a player backs in on him, he moves them. If somebody sprays a little intentional ice on him he will make sure they know it was not appreciated, if somebody crosses a teammate he will leave the confines the net to show his displeasure. Simply put, you want Steve as a teammate.

Steve looks back fondly on the great times in youth Hockey. Time spent with friends at games, practices and going away for tournaments. The 2011-12 season was highlighted by winning the Valley League Championship.

In 2011, Steve won Puckstopper of the Year. Steve saved his best for last, serving as the starting goalie for the U18 State Championship winning team. Those games were some of the best games he have seen Steve play, mak-



STEPHEN BOWKER



ing quality stops. Steve works mostly as a stand-up goalie relying on good positioning and anticipation. Next year, Steve has big plans to start his career in construction. The first order of business for Steve is getting his Hydraulic and CDL licenses and working full time for RRR Excavation. Goalie parents a special breed and most coaches will tell you a unique breed. Goalie parents will spend more money on equipment, more money on extra training, and will feel more eye-balls glancing their way when a goal is scored than the rest of the hockey parents. Ryan and Steve are both incredibly thankful for their parent's sacrifices. They know that they owe their parents an appreciation of gratitude for making their careers so successful. Ryan's parents are Ray and Tricia. They are the quiet parents, always with a smile and enjoying the play of the ice.

Steve's parents are Janice and Steve. They are the vocal parents that can be heard throughout the rink whether to challenge a bad call or encourage the players on the ice. Steve and Janice are both cancer fighters and survivors; their battles have been inspirational to the youth Hockey family. One family is quiet, one family is vocal, and they are two families fiercely loyal to their boys back stopping their teams.

Shawsheen Tech Sports Round-Up

Rams Wrestling team places third

By MIKE IPPOLITO
Sports Correspondent

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WILMINGTON - The Shawsheen Tech Wrestling team has made it a habit in recent years of posting outstanding efforts at the Wilmington Sons of Italy Tournament, winning the team title last season, while earning second place finishes in each of the two seasons prior to that.

The Rams continued that outstanding tradition this past Saturday with a third place finish at the tournament held at the Shriner's Auditorium, finishing with 142.5 points to secure their top three finish, coming in just behind second place Central Catholic who finished with 143.5 points and Haverhill, who won the team title with 156 points.

While the Rams fell just a little short of their lofty accomplishments from the past couple of seasons, the third place finish was still very satisfying for Shawsheen coach Mark Donovan and his squad.

"This morning before we left, I told the kids that top three would be a good accomplishment," Donovan said. "It is an early tournament and we still have a lot of kids just coming back from football, so it takes about two or three weeks to really get going, so all in all we did pretty well. By the holidays we will be ready to go."

The Rams had one champion, two runners up, two third place finishers and two fourth place finishers on the day, meaning that half of their 14 wrestlers competing in the tournament finished in the top four of their weight class.

The best of those wrestlers was junior Omar Eldaly of Wilmington, who took home the title at 220 pounds. Eldaly started his day with a pin over Mike DeLucia of Wilmington High in a time of 1:28, and followed it up with a pin over Henry Dolan of Masco in just 15 seconds, before moving on to the semi-finals where he defeated Phil Makoci of Peabody by a score of 8-1.

Eldaly was dominant in the finals as well, overpowering his opponent OJ Pekecar by a score of 12-3 to earn the title. Donovan was thrilled with the win for the still relatively inexperienced Eldaly.

"For a big guy, he is one of the hardest workers in the room," Donovan said. "He's a true junior in that he only has three years experience with wrestling. But he listens and he is a great athlete, especially for his size."

Freshman Frank Foti at 106 pounds and senior Christian Hoar at 182 pounds earned second place finishes. Foti beat Brett Weissbach of Greater Lowell by a score of 2-1 and Luke Bliss of Mount Mansfield, Vermont by pin in 3:45 in the semi-finals, before coming up short in the finals against Mike Glynn of Central Catholic.

Hoar beat Sandro Bruni of Brookline by a score of 11-4 and Joe Nieves of Winchester by pin in a time of 5:19 before falling to Joey Perkins of Masco in the finals.

Brian Caldwell (132) and senior Matt Winn (285) each earned third place finishes for the Rams. Caldwell defeated Jahsim Albaghadi of Brookline by a score of 7-0 in the consolation semi-finals and then pinned Steven Wise of Haverhill in the third place match with a pin in 4:35. Winn beat Owen Pica of Central Catholic with a pin in just 40 seconds in the consolation semi-finals before pinning Zach Peltier of Greater Lowell in 3:35 in the third place match.

Senior captain Cody Sughrue of Tewksbury (160 pounds) and Vincent Foti (138) each took home fourth place finishes for the Rams.

Sughrue defeated Spencer Edwards of Winchester by a score of 6-0 and Matt Shaw of Central Catholic by a score of 11-7 before suffering a loss to eventual champ Colby Holland of Danvers in the

semi-finals of the tournament. He then moved on to the consolation bracket where he picked up a win over Leo Conti of North Andover in the consolation semi-finals and then dropping a tough match to Tewksbury's Blake Hiltz in the third place match.

Foti defeated Devin Viel of Danvers in the consolation semi-finals by a score of 10-7 before losing by forfeit in the third place match to Ethan Graylin of Winchester.

Nick Lavino of Tewksbury went 2-2 on the day, including an 8-5 win over Dan Wezesa of Haverhill, while Tom Strow of Wilmington also went 2-2, pinning Jack Kinsey of Winchester in a time of 2:37, and Lincoln Donahue of Gloucester in a time of 4:27.

"We had a good day, and a lot of the kids wrestled really well," Donovan said. "The kids worked hard, they battled and that's all you can ask for. Now we will get back in the room and keep working and get ready for some big meets coming up and then the Lowell Holiday Tournament. We are 5-1 at this point, so I am pretty happy with where we are."

GIRLS HOOP

As season openers go, things could not have gone much better for the Shawsheen Tech Girls Basketball team last Friday night, when the Lady Rams kicked off their 2017-18 campaign with an impressive 52-40 road victory over CAC rival Greater Lawrence.

While the game was not perfect from an artistic standpoint with over 70 free throws attempted between the two teams, it was a fine way to kick off the season after a long preseason. The game also marked the return to the lineup of junior guard Shannon Fitzgerald, last year's team MVP, who spent much of the fall recovering from a broken femur.

"After practicing for three weeks the game was much needed and a win made all the work we have put in worth it. We have a lot of work still to do with some unknowns but overall there were some positives," Shawsheen coach Aimee Sueltenfuss said. "It was really emotional for myself and the team to see Shannon make her debut back on the court and after some frustration with herself she settled in to look much closer to a full return. The game was called very tight and it was hard to get in a rhythm."

Shawsheen was led to victory by the efforts of junior forward Megan Brown, who had 12 points and 12 rebounds as well as junior center Brooke Johnson, who chipped in with eleven points and seven rebounds as well as junior forward Katie Morrissey, who chipped in with six points off the bench.

"In all my years at Shawsheen we have always depended on the outside shooting for the most part," Sueltenfuss said. "One of me and my assistant's goals this year was to work our forwards and centers much more so that they can be factors in the game. With their points and then Katie coming in off the bench adding another six, they scored more than half the points which was great for us to see."

It's only one game, but it was exactly the kind of effort Sueltenfuss will be looking for on a nightly basis from her team, and she feels like Brown and Johnson may be just the players to give her that nightly effort.

"Meg is a true all-around kid that gives one hundred and ten percent every single day and takes perfect shots that really just never fall. Seeing her come out and play like that was awesome and hopefully exciting for things to come," Sueltenfuss said. "Brooke is one of my sleepers this year that I think can take teams by surprise. She has really come into her own through volleyball and I am hoping it continues here."

The aforementioned trio

were hardly alone in leading the Lady Rams to victory, as several other players also stood out, including freshman Susanna Gillis, senior guard Ashlyn Troisi and junior guard Alex DiPerri, all of whom played solid overall games in the win.

"We obviously got in foul trouble with a tight called game and I was very pleased with the play of freshman Susanna," Sueltenfuss said. "She played two quarters on the JV and when we had some issues with fouls I had to go to her and she stepped up and played aggressive and showed that she is a force that we have."

"I also was very pleased with Ashlyn and DiPerri. Both were very aggressive and Ashlyn brings a level of leadership and experience to the game."

The Lady Rams took on Chelsea High School on Tuesday night in their home opener, and came away with a convincing 84-33 victory. Shawsheen led by junior Alex DiPerri with 14 points and seven steals, along with junior Sam Moriconi with 15 points and six assists.

The Lady Rams will not be out of action until next Thursday, a stretch of ten days, with the Christmas holiday built into the break. Sueltenfuss and her assistant coaches will be looking to make the most of the long layoff to help the team be even better when they return to action.

BOYS HOCKEY

The Shawsheen Boys Hockey team is off to a fast start of their own, with a 2-0 record on the young season after picking up a pair of CAC victories during the season's opening week, downing Essex Tech 4-1 in a road contest in their season opener last Tuesday before beating Rockport in their home opener last Thursday in a 3-2 thriller at the Hallenborg Pavilion.

Shawsheen coach Chuck Baker is obviously pleased with his team's 2-0 start, but at the same time he knows they must keep improving if they are going to keep adding to the win column.

"We are playing well. We still have a lot of work to do to clean up many parts of the game, but we are showing signs of getting better each day," Baker said. "2-0 is where we needed to be at this point. We need to take care of business in the games we should win. Our non-league schedule could be a toss up each night."

In their 4-1 win over Essex, the Rams were led to victory by a goal and an assist by senior forward Jack Duggan as well as goals from senior forwards Ron Page, Matt Irwin, who also had three assists, and Andrew Tsoukalis.

The Rams held a slim 2-1 lead late in the third period when they were called for a major penalty, putting their lead in jeopardy, but Irwin scored a shorthanded goal and Duggan potted the empty netter for the 4-1 final behind a solid effort in net from senior goalie Bobby Mitza.

The Rockport game however, is the one that's going to provide the most lasting memories for Shawsheen fans, as the Rams got the game winner on a goal by Irwin with 40 seconds left in the game, completing not only a hat trick for Irwin, but a thrilling victory for the Rams.

As great as the win was, Baker would have liked for it to be a little less dramatic.

"We had a lot of chances, quality chances," Baker said. "We need to start cashing in. But it was a good game, and the will build on that win for sure."

Duggan and senior defenseman Jack Kelly assisted on Irwin's game winner, sending the talented forward streaking down the left side into the Rockport zone, where he snapped a perfect shot past the bewildered Rockport goalie.

Prior to the season Baker had predicted a very big sea-

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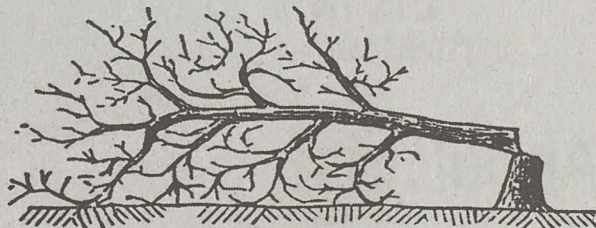
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Co-Ed Swim team to dive into a new season

By MIKE IPPOLITO
Sports Correspondent

BILLERICA — The Shawsheen Tech co-ed Swimming team enters this season on the heels of another very successful season last year. It was a year in which the team finished 5-4 overall but more importantly, both the boys and girls teams performed very well in the post season, with the boys taking third place in the CAC League Meet and second place in the State Vocational Meet, while the girls were even better, taking second on the CAC Meet, while also capturing their 11th consecutive state vocational title.

"Last year was such a special year for us," Shawsheen coach Rick Menard said. "We were coming off an unbelievable 2015 graduating class and really didn't think we had the depth to do as well as we did. The girls were so solid as underclassmen and were able to hold off our rivals Greater Lowell at the league meet to capture that 11th straight Voke State Championship."

The girls squad was led to their vocational title by outstanding performances up and down their roster, but none were better than their medley relay team of Deborah Boudrot, Hayley Fergusson, Carli Spada of Wilmington, and Kendra Swift of Wilmington. The quartet qualified for the MIAA Championships and broke the Shawsheen record that had stood since 1997 in the process.

The best part of that for the Rams is that the entire group will be all back in the pool this year, with Boudrot, Fergusson and Swift entering their senior years, while Spada is still just a junior. Menard is looking forward

to seeing the girls team defend their vocational title and make it an even dozen titles in a row, but he knows it will not be easy despite returning a talented roster.

"Our girls have a lot of returning swimmers but after our relay we really need some help to hold onto that streak," Menard said. "But, a lot like the Patriots, we are usually pleasantly surprised when championships roll around and a kid like Nicole Bennett (of Tewksbury) can crank out top ten finishes and clean up some ever elusive points in the distance and middle distance events."

"We have a couple of freshman girls who have shown some promise and have experience swimming out of the Boys and Girls Club leagues."

The boys team also looks poised to have another strong season, having graduated just two seniors off of last year's squad. The team also features a number of talented newcomers, led by freshman Damien Haddon of Tewksbury, who has impressed Menard in the preseason.

"He has been a beast in practice. The kid has a motor and good form from swimming at the North Shore Swim Club out of the Tech in the off season," Menard said. "Our former standout and current Bentley Falcon butterflyer Ryan Phelan was commenting on him when he stopped in the other day on break... Ryan holds about half of our boys records. 'Looks like I can kiss a few of those good-bye over the next couple of years,' Ryan said with a smile."

In a surprising turn of events this season, the boys actually out number the girls for the first time in sev-



The Shawsheen Tech Co-Ed Swim team has many local athletes on this year's team including: front row from left: Nicole Bennett, Rose Mary Brady, Jorrellie Arlock and Carli Spada of Wilmington; second row from left, Jackie Broderick, Celina Barczak and Kendran Swift of Wilmington, Jamie Quintilani of Tewksbury, Danielle Liscio of Wilmington and Emily Lagone of Tewksbury; the back row from left: Wilmington residents Frankie Irizarry, Damien Hadden, Derek Costello and Michael Bankowski; Tewksbury's Paul Tower; Zack Morris, Harry Germano and Ryan Callahan of Wilmington and Robert Danehy of Tewksbury. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

eral years.

"I think that many athletes and coaches from other sports realize the best way to stay in shape from the Fall sports and be ready for the Spring sports is to swim," Menard said. "I have cross country, tons of soccer, lacrosse, softball, baseball, and tennis kids in the water. There are even a few football players who were tough enough to jump in the water."

Coach (Jay) Tildsley always gives a grin when he see the guys, like defensive end Frankie Irizarry, from his Football team realize there is a big difference from football shape and swimming shape."

Irizarry of Wilmington will

be just one of several Tewksbury and Wilmington athletes on the Rams roster. He will be joined by fellow Wilmington residents Nicole Bennett, Rose Mary Brady, Jorrellie Arlock, Carli Spada, Jackie Broderick, Celina Barczak, Kendra

Swift, Danielle Liscio, Damien Hadden, Derek Costello, Paul Tower, Zack Morris, Harry Germano and Ryan Callahan, along with Tewksbury residents Robert Danehy, Jamie Quintilani, Emily Lagone and Michael Bankowski.

Shawsheen Tech Sports Round-Up

FROM PAGE SP7W

son for Irwin, who led the team with 21 goals and 22 assists last season, and through two games Irwin is making his coach look quite prophetic with four goals and three assists.

"He is playing at a whole other level at this point. All three goals came off of the drive to the net down the left side," Baker said. "The kid is proving he is going to be a great captain and leader of the team. He is playing with a high energy which I hope carries over to the rest of the team. He currently has four and three of them are short-handed. He is playing

great." While Irwin is getting the job done on offense, Mitza is doing a great job of back boning the defense, having picked up wins in each of the first two games with a 1.50 Goals Against Average. "Bobby has been solid in between the pipes," Baker said. "He seems to be focused and is working hard each day at practice."

BOYS HOOP

Despite a strong effort, the Shawsheen Boys Basketball team lost their season opener on Friday night on the road at CAC rival Whittier

Tech by a score of 63-54.

The Rams battled the powerful Tigers evenly through most of the game, and in fact lead by one point at the half, by a score of 26-25, and trailed by only three points heading into the fourth quarter.

Leading the way for the Rams were junior Zach Mickle with 21 points, junior Casey DeCost with 15 points and junior Jared Rizzo with ten points and ten rebounds.

The Rams traveled to Chelsea High School on Saturday night and suffered an 80-53 loss to drop to 0-2 on the season.

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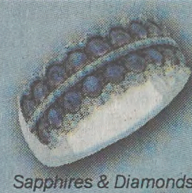
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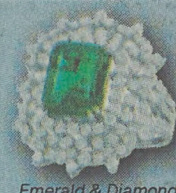
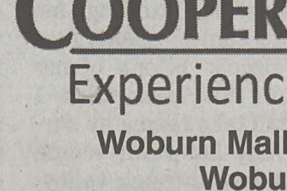
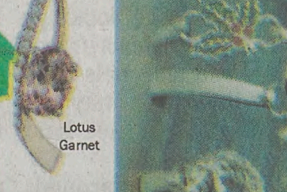
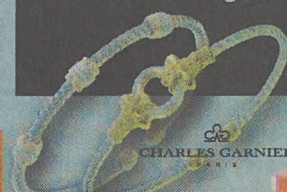
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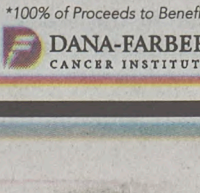
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